

January 27, 2024

To: Representative Adam Thomas, Members of the House Committee of Education

From: Nichole E. Inskeep, National Guard Association of Kansas, Legislative Chair

RE: HB 2567

The National Guard Association of the Kansas is comprised of commissioned officers of the Kansas National Guard, both Officer and Warrant Officer. We advocate on behalf of our members, aiming to communicate our message to continuously improve our relevance, readiness, modernization and quality of life at both the state and national levels; all while promoting our rich heritage as the nation's first military organization. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on the importance of HB 2567 to our members.

HB 2567 provides an incentive for both recruiting and retention of members of the Kansas National Guard. When considering more mature recruits, it provides an education benefit to someone that may be entering service with a degree already conferred. This would allow the National Guard to provide the state with a force that is highly educated, and more competitive with peers within the military, but also, provides a more educated work force for the state of Kansas. Investing in Soldiers and Airmen will assist in the retention of said servicemen and women, ensuring we have a capable force to respond when called upon in the variety of situations they could be called to serve in.

I respectfully request your support of HB 2567. Thank you so much for your time.

Nichole E. Inskeep

National Guard Association of Kansas

Legislative Chair