



**Kaw Valley Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
FY 2014 Kansas Legislative Priorities**



Dear Representative Goico and Members of the Committee,

I am Major (Ret) Sheli Sweeney, Legislative Liaison of the Kaw Valley Chapter (KVC) of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The KVC, MOAA actively serves as an advocate for proposed legislation affecting the military career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services.

To that end, the KVC Legislative Committee maintains coordination with local veteran service organizations (VSO), the Kansas State Legislature, and our Congressional delegation to advocate on behalf of military members and their families. To effectively do this, the KVC has been involved with development of common issues and recommendations at the local level. One of our legislative priorities this year is:

- *Providing opportunities for education and employment for military members.*
- *Rationale: More service members may access funds for education.*

We support passage of SB 27, a bill which amends the state statute to expand eligibility for the state military scholarship program, to include not only those military members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, but those who served in other international waters or on international lands. This expansion is necessary to make the grant more equitable. Many of our Kansas National Guardsmen have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, but there are others who serve in areas like the Horn of Africa, Europe and the Middle East. This bill would allow them to access scholarship funds to advance their education.

This bill, we believe, increases the opportunities for our service members to attend technical schools, community colleges and higher education institutions in the state, thereby increasing the probability that these service members and their families may remain in Kansas upon completion of their training. This advances the Kansas workforce and provides an opportunity for our military members at the same time.

Please consider passage of SB 27. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself at [rhoddr1@aol.com](mailto:rhoddr1@aol.com) / 785-640-8751 or Major (Ret) Sheli Sweeney, MOAA Legislative Chair at [shelisweeney@hotmail.com](mailto:shelisweeney@hotmail.com) / 785.213.9053.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR KANSAS MILITARY MEMBERS AND FAMILIES!**

Veteran/Military/Homeland Security Comm.

Date: MARCH 7, 2013

Attachment #: 2