

Governor's Military Council

Senate Standing Committee on Education
Testimony on HB 2109
(Relating to: school districts and school finance)
March 15, 2013

Chair Abrams and members of the Committee, I'm John Armbrust, Executive Director of the Governor's Military. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2109.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is required by the 2011 Budget Control Act to reduce its budget by \$487B over a 10 year period beginning in 2013. The Secretary of Defense is on record as saying no state will be left untouched by this budget reduction. If full sequestration becomes a reality, this \$487B will grow to as much as \$1 Trillion. Additionally, it is expected the President will request BRAC rounds in 2015 and 2017 in his FY 2014 budget submission.

These budget reductions and the possibility of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), when coupled with the fiscal and economic impact of military activity in the state of Kansas, make it clear that Kansas should continue to take all actions possible which show Kansas is a military friendly state. Passage of HB 2109 is an important step in that direction.

The fiscal and economic impact I referenced is based on a study completed by Wichita State University several years ago. This study showed that military activities in Kansas contribute about \$7.5B per year to the state's Gross State Product and employ approximately 169,000 Kansans. These Kansans receive wages totaling over \$5.5B per year. Additionally, over \$395M in property and income taxes are paid to the state as a result of military activities in Kansas.

In the Pentagon and in many forums around the United States, Kansas' past support of a second count date has been noted. I believe this nationwide attention plus the reasons articulated above demonstrate the importance of your support of HB 2109.

That said, there is another reason I support passage of this bill out of Committee. While the growth of the military in Kansas due to BRAC 2005 is now over, the resulting growth in the communities and their school districts is not yet completed. As the number of deployments continues to decrease and time on station increases, we expect more families will accompany their military member to Kansas. Growth of military students in our schools is expected along side this growth in families. HB 2109 allows the school districts to ensure they can handle the student increases in a way that ensures all students get a quality education in Kansas, regardless of when they arrive.

In summary, I believe passage of HB 2109 with no amendments is important and deserves your full support.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2109.

Senate Education Committee
Date 3-15-13
Attachment 2