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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Kinder Signs Legislation to Limit College Tuition for Combat Vets

ST. LOUIS – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today, serving as acting governor, signed legislation that will limit tuition at public colleges and universities in Missouri to \$50 per credit hour for eligible combat veterans.

“In all of history, there has never been a greater force for good than the Armed Services of the United States of America,” Lt. Governor Kinder said. “Our veterans have defended our nation and spread liberty to literally billions of people around the world. And they continue to do so today. This legislation will help ease the financial burden of continuing education on Missouri veterans.”

Lt. Governor Kinder signed the bill during a ceremony today at Harris Stowe State College in St. Louis. The legislation, Senate Bill 830, was sponsored by Senator Maida Coleman. The new law provides that all public institutions of higher education that receive any state funds appropriated by the general assembly, shall limit the tuition charged to combat veterans to fifty dollars per credit hour, for any program leading to a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. Under this bill, a combat veteran will only have to pay a maximum of \$750 in tuition to take a full course load at any public college or university in Missouri.

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A “combat veteran” is any person who served in armed combat after September 11, 2001, who was a Missouri resident when first entering the military, and who was discharged from military service under honorable conditions. Eligible veterans must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half points on a four point scale, or its equivalent. The eligibility period for the tuition limitation shall expire ten years from the date of the veteran's last discharge from service.

Last week, Lt. Governor Kinder signed legislation requiring the Commissioner of the Office of Administration to give preference to certain disabled veterans doing business as Missouri companies when awarding state contracts and to strive for a goal of 3 percent of all contracts be performed or filled by service-disabled veteran owned or operated companies.

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