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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TREVOR JACOBS  
4TH DISTRICT

House Veterans and Military Affairs  
HB 2211  
OPPONENT Testimony  
6 February 2023

Chairman Ellis and Committee members on Veterans and Military Affairs:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opposition for HB2211.

Ronald Reagan once said, "Government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem.."

This HB2211 is just that: it is a problem and threat to the security of the liberty of the people of Kansas. It is a questionable proposal that someone would suggest giving so much concentrated power in the hands of one person—the Governor.

If the purpose is truly "detention of individuals posing threats and the prevention, preemption, and deterrence of and protection from threats targeted at the state's territory, population, infrastructure, assets, and property," then you'd be allowing the military to surveil the people and gather intelligence by way of traditional civilian law enforcement officers.

The language, "Detention of individuals posing threats," is also concerning because we don't know what constitutes a threat. Does the Governor decide? Is that threat a mom at a school board meeting reading obscene parts of library books allowed in public schools? Is it someone who protests abortion at the Capitol? We've seen abuse of this power already by various state and federal authorities in our great nation. It's a shame.

Law enforcement needs to stay local. We do not need to be in a Police State or have the National Guard to enter in the arena of interfering with liberty of the citizens of Kansas on behalf of Homeland Security. I strongly urge you to oppose this bill and let our law enforcement keep the actual threats from its citizens, not Homeland Security deter those who oppose their elected officials' decisions.

"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear." Harry S. Truman

Humbly,

Trevor Jacobs  
State Representative, District 4