

Honorable Chairman Ellis, Vice-Chair Dodson, Ranking Minority Member Weigel and Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose HB2211, Establishing the Office of Homeland Security within adjutant general's office.

The text of the bill includes this section...*"The purpose of the office of homeland security is the 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."*

As a devoted lover of liberty that language terrifies me. "Prevention, preemption and deterrence?" The only way to do that is to empower the military to establish surveillance and intelligence gathering of traditional civilian law enforcement targets.

"Detention of individuals posing threats?" Who gets to decide what constitutes a threat? The governor? Is a threat someone who protests at the capitol or a school board? Both of those have been deemed threats by various state and federal authorities.

The National Guard's mission limitations should stay as they are now while law enforcement of any kind should stay in the hands of the local and state law enforcement agencies that have kept Kansas safe since its inception. Allowing the National Guard to enter the arena of civilian law enforcement in any way will lead to eventual mission creep and a loss of rights and freedoms. The military has a mission and they should focus on it rather than expanding into new realms that have traditionally been off limits.

I kindly ask that you do not pass HB2211 out of committee for the above reason(s).

Thank you for your consideration,
Roger Lomshek, Precinct Committeeman & GOP state delegate
Pittsburg, KS