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Major General Michael T. Venerdi
The Adjutant General and Director of
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Laura Kelly, Governor

January 21, 2026

Committee on Judiciary
Kansas House of Representatives
Chair Susan Humpries
Attn: Lynette Hosek, Committee Assistant
State Capitol, Room 582-N
300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Name: Lt. Col. Keith Marshall
Organization: The Adjutant General's Department
Contact: keith.marshall.1@us.af.mil, 785-646-0011
Bill: HB 2243
Position: Proponent
Type: Written Only
Date: January 21, 2026

Dear Chair Humphries and Members of the Committee,

The Adjutant General's Department respectfully submits the following testimony for the hearing on January 21, 2026. Unfortunately our agency has a scheduling conflict and cannot appear in person.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2243. This bill addresses a critical gap in our state's ability to protect the children of those who serve our country. By requiring Kansas DCF to notify and collaborate with the Department of Defense (DoD) Family Advocacy Program (FAP), we ensure that military families are not navigating the complex child welfare system in isolation, but are instead wrapped in the specialized support they have earned.

The Need for Integration

Currently, when a child of a military family enters the Child in Need of Care (CINC) system, there is no standardized requirement for DCF to notify the relevant military authorities. This lack of communication can lead to:

- Duplicate Investigations: Redundant efforts by both state and military authorities.
- Missed Resources: Families may miss out on military-specific counseling, assistance, and legal protections.
- Readiness Risks: Commands may be unaware of significant stressors affecting a service member's performance and mission readiness.

HB 2243 creates a formal bridge between state and federal authorities, ensuring that the Family Advocacy Program, which is the DoD's primary resource for domestic abuse and child neglect, is engaged from the outset.

Impact on Full-Time National Guard Members

Full-time National Guard members (Active Guard Reserve and federally mobilized personnel) occupy a unique space. They live in our local Kansas communities rather than on base, yet they are subject to military regulations and entitled to military benefits. This legislation would benefit them in three major areas:

1. Holistic Family Support

Unlike civilian-only cases, a referral to FAP provides a National Guard family with a Victim Advocate and a New Parent Support Program (NPSP). For a Guard member facing a CINC case, these programs provide a specialized understanding of military life, such as the stresses of deployment and reintegration, that civilian caseworkers may not fully grasp.

2. Preservation of Career and Benefits

In many instances, child welfare issues are tied to financial or mental health crises. FAP can intervene with resources that prevent a situation from escalating to a level that might end a Guard member's career. By addressing the root cause through military channels, the family has a better chance of remaining intact and economically stable.

3. Streamlined Communication

HB 2243 ensures that the military command is notified through proper channels. For a full-time National Guard member, this means their leadership can provide the necessary flexibility for court dates or counseling sessions, treating the issue as a readiness matter rather than a disciplinary one. Resources for Military Families in Kansas.

Summary

HB 2243 is a "force multiplier" for child safety. It ensures that when a military child is in need, the full weight of both the State of Kansas and the United States Armed Forces is behind them. We therefore urge the Committee to recommend HB 2243 favorable for passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on our budget request. You are always welcome to reach out to me if you need anything. You may also contact my legislative liaison, Lt. Col. Keith Marshall, at 785-646-0011 or keith.marshall.1@us.af.mil.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

PAUL W. SCHNEIDER
Brigadier General, Kansas National Guard
Director of the Joint Staff