

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.”

“Prevention, preemption and deterrence is terrifying language?” The only way to achieve that is to provide the military the power to establish surveillance and intelligence gathering of traditional civilian law enforcement targets.

Who decides what constitutes a threat? Would it be the governor? Is a threat someone who peacefully disagrees with the government or a school board? Both 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, police and sheriff, that have kept Kansas safe since its inception. Allowing the National Guard to provide civilian law enforcement in any way will lead to an eventual loss of rights and freedoms. The military has a mission and they should focus on it rather than adding duties that have over the years belonged to other agencies.

I respectfully ask that you do not pass HB2211 out of committee for the above reasons.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kari Sue Vosburgh Precinct Committeewoman  
Wichita, KS