

## Opposition to H.B. 2211

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HB 2211 AN ACT concerning security, establishing the office of homeland security; prescribing the powers and duties thereof.

As a retired Army Veteran, I am opposed to this act for several reasons.

First, this will create another bureaucratic department that essentially duplicates responsibilities already being handled by other state departments. For instance, the Kansas State Highway Patrol's Mission Statement is "We are committed to providing protection of life and property through active enforcement of traffic, criminal, and other Laws of the State of Kansas, and by supporting homeland security initiatives." Why not just add additional budgetary money and hire personnel within the Kansas State Highway Patrol to increase the focus on homeland security?

Secondly, the proposed purpose of the newly created office is very vague in its statement when it uses terms like prevention, preemption and deterrence. This is very ambiguous and I fear could lead to arrests and detentions based not on crimes that have been committed but, because an individual might express an opinion or make a statement that is then interpreted to be a threat. One example would be a mother or father addressing a school board over policies and actions taken by school officials.

Finally, the Kansas National Guard is there to assist in times of emergency and natural disasters within the state. This proposed department appears to be a unit that would be a 24/7 operation continuously working to further Homeland Security initiatives at the discretion of the Adjutant General and the Governor. I believe we already have enough agencies to deal with the homeland security threats that may be directed at the State of Kansas and its population.