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Brigadier General Paul W. Schneider
Acting Adjutant General

Laura Kelly, Governor

February 26, 2026

Committee on Veterans and Military
Kansas House of Representatives
Chairman, Representative Rick James
Attn: Debra Heideman, Committee Assistant
State Capitol, Room 281-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 2767, Establishing the Kansas Military Affairs Commission
Position: Proponent
Type: In-Person
Date: February 26, 2026

Dear Chairman James and Members of the Committee,

The Adjutant General's Department respectfully submits the following written testimony for the hearing on House Bill 2767, Establishing the Kansas Military Affairs Commission, on February 26, 2026. My Legislative Liaison, Lt. Col. Keith Marshall, will testify on my behalf.

Need for a Statutory Commission

For more than two decades, Kansas has relied on the Governor's Military Council to advocate for military installations, support servicemembers and families, and protect the state's economic interests tied to the Department of Defense. The Council has always existed through a series of executive orders, which creates uncertainty and limits long term planning. HB 2767 resolves these limitations by establishing a permanent statutory commission with clearly defined membership, duties, and accountability.

Importance of Kansas Military Installations

Kansas's military installations are central to both national security and the state's economic strength. Military activities provide thousands of jobs and more than ten billion dollars annually for the Kansas economy. Servicemembers and their families are important assets to our state. HB 2767 strengthens Kansas's ability to protect and grow that impact by creating a commission that brings together state leadership, military community representatives, installation partners, and subject matter experts in a unified structure that can anticipate challenges and pursue opportunities.

Legislative Inclusion and the Ability to Act Quickly

One of the most important improvements in HB 2767 is the formal inclusion of legislative leadership. The bill designates the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House or their designees as voting members of the Commission. Legislative inclusion ensures that the Commission's recommendations are grounded in an understanding of statutory requirements, budget realities, and committee priorities. Legislative participation also strengthens continuity across administrations by ensuring that the state's military strategy is not solely an executive branch initiative but a shared priority supported by both branches of government. This unified structure improves Kansas's credibility when engaging federal partners, including the Department of Defense and the state's congressional delegation.

Alignment With Federal DoD Intent and National Best Practices

HB 2767 aligns Kansas with federal Department of Defense intent by ensuring that military community voices are formally represented in state level decision making, which DoD identifies as essential for understanding and addressing the unique needs of military families. The bill creates a voting seat for an active duty military spouse and includes installation representatives as ex officio members, allowing Kansas to incorporate lived military family experience into policy discussions in a way that strengthens readiness, family wellbeing, and economic stability. HB 2767 also reflects DoD recommendations that statewide military councils prioritize military family readiness by assigning duties focused on quality of life, community relations, and employment opportunities for military families. By unifying the Governor, legislative leaders, state agencies, military spouses, installation partners, and military experts, the bill creates the streamlined structure that federal best practices identify as necessary for strengthening policymaker understanding and positioning Kansas to compete for future missions and modernization opportunities.

Improved Accountability and Continuity

By placing the Commission in statute and within the Office of the Governor, HB 2767 provides clear lines of authority, public accountability, predictable continuity across administrations, and transparent expectations for membership and operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. 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.

PAUL W. SCHNEIDER
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Acting Adjutant General