

2722 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66611-1287



phone: 785-646-0001
fax: 785-646-0099
www.kansastag.gov

Major General Michael T. Venerdi
The Adjutant General and Director of
Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Laura Kelly, Governor

March 4, 2025

Committee on Judiciary
Kansas Senate
Chairwoman Kellie Warren
Attn: Barbara Moore, Committee Assistant
State Capitol, Room 346-S
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 2242, Concurrent Jurisdiction
Position: Proponent
Type: Written Only
Date: March 4, 2025

Dear Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the Committee,

The Adjutant General's Department respectfully submits the following testimony for the hearing on House Bill 2242, Concurrent Jurisdiction, on March 4, 2025.

Military installations in Kansas are subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction. According to the Department of Defense's Defense-State Liaison Office, adopting policies that allow for concurrent jurisdiction allows juvenile incidents that occur on federal military installations to be adjudicated with state resources and juvenile courts which are much better equipped to address matters involving juvenile offenders than federal courts.ⁱ

The juvenile justice system plays a crucial role in shaping the long-term outcomes of juvenile offenders by focusing on rehabilitation, education, and reintegration rather than solely on punishment. Unlike the adult criminal system, it aims to address the root causes of delinquent behaviors and mental health challenges through interventions that promote personal growth and responsibility. Effective programs, including mentorship, vocational training, and counseling, can reduce recidivism and help young offenders develop the skills necessary for a productive future. When the system emphasizes rehabilitation over punitive measures, it increases the likelihood that juveniles will reintegrate successfully into society, pursue education or careers, and avoid the cycle of incarceration. A fair and supportive juvenile justice system not only benefits the individuals involved

but also strengthens communities by fostering safer environments and reducing crime in the long run. It is imperative for juvenile offenders on military installations to have access to this type of system.

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.

MICHAEL T. VENERDI
Major General, Kansas National Guard
The Adjutant General

ⁱ <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/priorities/concurrent-juvenile-jurisdiction>