



CHRISTOPHER D. CROFT
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER
8TH DISTRICT

Thank you, Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2820 today.

Modern warfare and surveillance have expanded beyond the physical, integrating advanced technologies such as drones into their core operations. While these devices offer significant benefits for civilian, law enforcement, and military applications, they also present a vulnerability when their critical components are sourced from nations with malicious intentions.

Countries of concern, as defined in HB 2820, including China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, and Venezuela, have demonstrated a pattern of behavior that threatens the United States' security and technological sovereignty. Their efforts to dominate the technological sphere and gather intelligence through various means directly challenge our national security.

As we discuss in every conversation surrounding the issue, nations like China can demand that all data be turned over to the government. This puts our citizens at risk when advanced drone technology can have their data taken by an adversarial government with the stroke of a pen. Tools our agencies purchase to keep our citizens safe can and will suddenly become the way other nations collect our sensitive data.

By acquiring critical drone technology components from these countries, we inadvertently expose ourselves to espionage, sabotage, and other forms of cyber warfare. This legislation aims to mitigate this risk by prohibiting state and local governments from purchasing, acquiring, or using drones and related services or equipment with critical components produced or owned by any foreign principal from these nations.

The bill allows a transition period until July 1, 2029, for governmental agencies to comply with these provisions, acknowledging the practical challenges of divestiture while maintaining operational capabilities. Furthermore, it provides a narrowly tailored exception process, overseen by the Secretary of Administration in consultation with the Adjutant General, ensuring that the safety and security of Kansas remain the paramount concern.

My testimony today is a call to action against a specific technological threat and a broader appeal for vigilance and resilience in our ongoing battle to safeguard our state and nation from foreign adversaries. The prudent measures outlined in HB 2820 represent another step forward in our collective defense, ensuring that the advancements we embrace today will not become the vulnerabilities our adversaries exploit tomorrow.

I urge the committee to support HB 2820, reinforcing our commitment to the security of our technological infrastructure for the safety and privacy of our citizens. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Croft", written in a cursive style.

Representative Chris Croft
House Majority Leader