



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson
Director

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Testimony on HB 2509
Before the House Committee on Vision 2020
Joe Mandala, Chief Information Officer
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
February 3, 2016

Chairman Campbell and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joe Mandala, and I serve as the Chief Information Officer of the KBI. Please accept, on behalf of the KBI, my neutral testimony regarding HB 2509.

HB 2509 would centralize control of all Information Technology expenditures within all executive branch agencies under the office of the Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO). Budgets and plans, including staffing and procurement, would be submitted by agencies to the CITO, who would presumably review those budgets and plans and make decisions regarding approval of proposed expenditures.

Additionally, this bill provides authority to the CITO to restructure information technology security responsibilities and technology for all such agencies, which would include relationships and connectivity with all local and other state agencies.

We believe that the intent of the bill is to provide a stronger and more robust security posture for the State of Kansas, and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation strongly supports this intent. However, we have concerns about the potential impact to the mission of the KBI, to the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System, and to criminal justice agencies across the state.

The mission of the CITO is broad, and covers all executive branch agencies according to the bill. The KBI is a relatively small agency in size and budget when taken in comparison to this broad mission. However, the impact of the KBI's mission on public safety, and our impact on our local partners' ability to increase public safety in the State are considerably outsized. Our concern is that decisions made by the CITO with the best intent concerning the broad mission of larger state agencies could have a magnified impact on our partners across the state, both in budget and in operations. This would, in turn, potentially adversely affect public safety across the entire state.

I would also like to point out that because of our unique mission and position within the state; because of the particular types of information that we work with daily; and because of the external governance and controls that we are accustomed to, the KBI, and by extension the KCJIS system, are already largely physically segregated from the main state systems managed by OITS. We operate with an effective security infrastructure and have regularly conducted independent security audits.

As we have in the past, we will continue to work cooperatively with the CITO and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) in all matters relating to strategic planning and information security. It is a very important issue for us and one which we take very seriously.

While we strongly support what we believe to be the intent of this bill, we would ask that consideration be given to our specific mission and unique position within the public safety community in the State of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to stand for questions.