

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5009

By Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security

2-2

9 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION regarding the Kansas Legislature's
10 opposition to the relocation of the Guantanamo Bay detainees to Ft.
11 Leavenworth, Kansas or elsewhere within Kansas and urging the Pres-
12 ident of the United States and other members of the federal executive
13 branch, to not consider Ft. Leavenworth or elsewhere in Kansas as a
14 potential site for the relocation of the Guantanamo Bay detainees.
15

16 WHEREAS, Leavenworth County and the cities of Leavenworth and
17 Lansing, Kansas and the State of Kansas strongly oppose the relocation
18 of the Guantanamo detainees to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and

19 WHEREAS, The Military Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth,
20 unlike Guantanamo Bay, is not isolated from the surrounding civilian
21 population, and would pose numerous safety, security, and economic
22 hardships on all of Leavenworth County, and would negatively impact the
23 municipal services, the local economy, and the security of the cities of
24 Leavenworth and Lansing and the state of Kansas; and

25 WHEREAS, Increased security of Fort Leavenworth would close Fort
26 facilities that are now available for some use by the civilian community,
27 including Sherman Airfield which is the only public use airport in Leav-
28 enworth County and the Munson clinic and other facilities that are used
29 by veterans, military retirees and the public; and

30 WHEREAS, Security concerns also include the fact that railroad right-
31 of-way that trains use crosses through the Fort property; the Fort is small
32 and houses over 3,000 residents; there are no emergency medical services
33 or surgical services at the Fort and the only clinic is utilized by active
34 duty soldiers, retirees and their families for medical care; the two small
35 hospitals in town and the veterans facilities are not equipped to handle
36 the security associated with serving Guantanamo Bay detainees; and

37 WHEREAS, Security concerns would not only be felt locally, but also
38 throughout the Kansas metropolitan areas and the state of Kansas by
39 becoming a high profile target for terrorism as a result of such relocation;
40 and

41 WHEREAS, The Leavenworth County Sheriff's Office, as well as the
42 Leavenworth and Lansing Police Departments are not fully capable of
43 handling an international terrorist incident and the inevitable non-violent

1 protests that would occur outside the Fort's gates since protests are not
2 allowed on military institutions; and

3 WHEREAS, The Leavenworth Community has, from its inception,
4 embraced Fort Leavenworth and neither the community nor the post
5 could exist without each entity's support and the local economy is de-
6 pendent on the families who are stationed at the Fort to further their
7 academic enrichment; and

8 WHEREAS, Fort Leavenworth has always served a dual-mission, be-
9 cause the Command and General Staff College and the Military Barracks
10 are both located on post; it is critical to keep education as the primary
11 focus of this installation and if Guantanamo Bay detainees are relocated
12 to Fort Leavenworth the growth of the installation would cease and future
13 expansion of military educational services would not occur; and

14 WHEREAS, 2009 marked the 100th year anniversary of the Interna-
15 tional Military Student program at Fort Leavenworth; the program can
16 trace its inception back to 1894 and graduated its first international stu-
17 dent in 1908; over the past century, 25 graduates have become Heads of
18 State, 300 have become head of their nation's military and over 2,000
19 have become Generals; as a result there are military and political leaders
20 around the world who were schooled at Fort Leavenworth, lived in the
21 city adjacent to the Fort and made lifelong American friends; it is crucial,
22 especially in the present state of international relations, that the inter-
23 national officers program at Fort Leavenworth remain strong and vital
24 and if Guantanamo Bay detainees are relocated to Fort Leavenworth,
25 many counties will not send military students and their families to Amer-
26 ica, impairing a significant contribution to international peace and un-
27 derstanding; and

28 WHEREAS, The Military Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth
29 is a conventional prison with only a handful of segregation units and most
30 prisoners in large pods containing cells opening into a common area and
31 it would be highly inappropriate to house foreign detainees with United
32 States military prisoners; and

33 WHEREAS, The state, counties and cities have the responsibility for
34 the safety of our citizens, local schools, businesses, and mutual aid for
35 surrounding communities related to the detainee prison facility being
36 located in Kansas and opposed the likely changes and relocation of the
37 Command and General Staff College; the restricted access the relocation
38 could cause for railroad traffic, and the increased negative publicity for
39 the community from potential sympathizers of the detainees: Now,
40 therefore,

41 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas,*
42 *the Senate concurring therein:* That the Kansas legislature strongly op-
43 poses the relocation of the Guantanamo Bay detainees to Fort Leaven-

1 worth, Kansas or elsewhere within Kansas and that the Legislature un-
2 derscores its commitment to provide any and all support necessary to
3 ensure the Guantanamo Bay detainees are not moved to Kansas.

4 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State provide enrolled
5 copies of this resolution to President Obama, Vice President Biden, the
6 Kansas congressional delegation, and Governor Kathleen Sebelius.