

## CHAPTER 147

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1606

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION regarding the Kansas Legislature's opposition to the relocation of the Guantanamo Bay detainees to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas or elsewhere within Kansas and urging the President of the United States and other members of the federal executive branch, to not consider Ft. Leavenworth or elsewhere in Kansas as a potential site for the relocation of the Guantanamo Bay detainees.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Leavenworth County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Leavenworth and Lansing Police Departments are not fully capable of handling an international terrorist incident and the inevitable non-violent protests that would occur outside the Fort's gates since protests are not allowed on military institutions; and

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

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

WHEREAS, 2009 marked the 100th year anniversary of the International Military Student program at Fort Leavenworth; the program can trace its inception back to 1894 and graduated its first international student in 1908; over the past century, 25 graduates have become Heads of State, 300 have become head of their nation's military and over 2,000 have become Generals; as a result there are military and political leaders around the world who were schooled at Fort Leavenworth, lived in the city adjacent to the Fort and made lifelong American friends; it is crucial, especially in the present state of international relations, that the international officers program at Fort Leavenworth remain strong and vital and if Guantanamo Bay detainees are relocated to Fort Leavenworth, many countries will not send military students and their families to America, impairing a significant contribution to international peace and understanding; and

WHEREAS, The Military Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth is a conventional prison with only a handful of segregation units and most prisoners in large pods containing cells opening into a common area and

it would be highly inappropriate to house foreign detainees with United States military prisoners; and

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

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein:* That the Kansas legislature strongly opposes the relocation of the Guantanamo Bay detainees to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas or elsewhere within Kansas and that the Legislature underscores its commitment to provide any and all support necessary to ensure the Guantanamo Bay detainees are not moved to Kansas.

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

Adopted by the House February 5, 2009.

Adopted by the Senate February 2, 2009.