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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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Private Citizen

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SB38, Creating the defend the guard act to establish when the Kansas national guard may be released into active duty combat.

Proponent

Written only testimony

Chair Thompson and members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my support for SB 38. This is a bill that upholds the U.S. Constitution, reenforces our Founding Fathers' beliefs about senseless wars being wars we should avoid and protects Kansans from becoming victims of the war machine.

I lost my father, a hardworking Kansas man, thanks to the predatory practices of the U.S. government which repeatedly lied to him during the Vietnam War—a war that Americans fought in despite Congress never officially declaring war. Before passing in October 2023, my father told me that a recruiter had convinced him to sign up for a specific role that “was so important he would never see combat”—a lie he might have figured out had Congress officially declared war as it should have.

He was exposed to Agent Orange during his time in Vietnam—a chemical the government told him was “harmless”. That harmless chemical would give him Parkinson's Disease (PD) later in life, of which he would eventually die from at the age of 74. Apart from PD, my father was considered an otherwise healthy man.

The federal government gets away with so many inhumane practices and when it uses its powers to harm Americans, state governments must step in to defend their citizens. This bill does just that.

Please protect Kansans like my father. Make the federal government declare war if they want Kansans involved in foreign wars.

I respectfully ask that you please vote ‘yes’ on SB 38.

Ian Brannan

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