

Senate Bill 38
Opponent Oral Testimony Summary

January 30, 2025

Colonel Michael Kelly

United States Air Force (retired)

- **Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee, I respectfully stand in opposition to Senate Bill 38.**
- **I am a retired Air Force Space and Missile Operations officer with experience in the command and control of nuclear forces. From 1994 to 1997 I served on the planning staff at United States Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base Nebraska that writes the mission plans for our nuclear war plans in order to make credible our national strategy to deter any potential adversary from a nuclear attack upon our homeland or our allies. Those plans included missions for air refueling aircraft of the Kansas Air National Guard.**
- **Published military doctrine guides our entire military in peace and in war. Joint Publication 3-72 is entitled “Nuclear Operations.” It says: “Air refueling also provides essential support to nuclear command and control (NC2) assets.”**
- **The Kansas Air National Guard operates KC-135 refueling aircraft based at Forbes Field in missions to support ongoing United States Strategic Command nuclear command and control assets.**
- **If Senate Bill 38 becomes law such peacetime nuclear deterrence missions would be precluded. The Kansas Air National Guard would lose these essential missions to another unit to the detriment of national security.**
- **I strongly urge the committee to oppose this bill which will reduce the contributions of Kansas citizens to the defense of our country and reduce our military readiness which serves to deter strategic attacks on our country.**
- **Nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought. But we must remain vigilant and trained to respond so that no potential adversary ever loses sight of the capabilities of our nuclear deterrent forces.**

- **The Kansas Air National Guard is an essential part of those deterrent forces and should remain so. I urge the committee to oppose this bill.**
- **Chairman Thompson, I stand ready for questions.**