



January 28, 2025

To: Senator Mike Thompson, Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Nichole E. Inskeep, National Guard Association of Kansas, Legislative Chair

RE: SB38

The National Guard Association of Kansas is comprised of commissioned officers of the Kansas National Guard, both Officer and Warrant Officer. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard – Kansas is comprised of all enlisted members. We advocate on behalf of our members, aiming to communicate our message to continuously improve our relevance, readiness, modernization and quality of life at both the state and national levels; all while promoting our rich heritage as the nation's first military organization. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning SB38 – Defense of the Guard.

While we, as an organization, understand the heart of what this bill may intend, and the care and concern of the state legislature towards our families and the members that serve this great state, we believe that the adverse effects on the Kansas National Guard's ability to full fill missions when called would be significant.

There are several reasons why this would be a concerning bill for members of the Kansas National Guard. Federal missions, and the funding tied to them, the experience gained through these experiences – they all make the Soldiers and Airmen that serve this great state more ready to serve within the state borders. The Soldiers and Airmen that serve the Kansas National Guard work directly with our neighbors, other components and branches of the military through federal mobilizations, which has allowed for career enhancement and development that would not exist, again, enabling the Citizen Soldiers to serve this state to be more proficient and capable when called on within our state. The Kansas National Guardsmen that volunteered to serve this state, also raised their hand to serve their nation, which is also at the crux of this issue.

We all raised our hand to serve the State of Kansas, but also our great nation, through this service we have access to some of the federal benefits that keep us serving past our initial obligations. This bill puts at risk funding and benefits afforded our Guardsmen through the federal level, to include access to Tricare. The erosion of trust within the armed forces that is needed during times of war are also concerning. The funding that we risk, the access to maintain Always There, Always Ready forces to respond when called, is extremely concerning. There are others that I am sure will address the constitutional and legal concerns that exist, we would ask that you consider the cost to our readiness and the support to our families.

We ask members of this committee to oppose this bill, ensuring we remain the best, most experienced Soldiers and Airman for the State of Kansas.

Nichole E. Inskeep
National Guard Association of Kansas
Legislative Chair

125 SE Airport Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66619
Phone: 785-862-1066