

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am Kirk Sours and it is indeed an honor to speak with you today concerning a matter that is of great importance to each one here, as well as every Kansas citizen. That matter is the preservation of the integrity of our laws in the State of Kansas as well as those of the United States, specifically the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Kansas, both of which are compatible and complimentary. There have recently been court decisions handed down which refer to, and give authority in American courts, to foreign law and cultural law that may be **incompatible** with the Kansas Constitution and the US Constitution. This particular **HB 2087** will remind and direct the Courts within the State of Kansas to avoid referral to, consultation with, and permission of any Foreign or Cultural Law when deciding or hearing cases in Kansas. It simply codifies the Constitution, nothing more.

Lance Corporal Jesse T. Sours, United States Marine Corps, Reserve, is my 22 year old son. When he told his mother and me he had enlisted it did not surprise me, nor did I ask him why. I knew why. It was the way we raised him. "Why the Marines?" some would ask. I never had to ask him. It was the greatest challenge. Nor was I surprised when he volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan. He is currently serving in Helmand Province. Yes, I am proud of my son.

I once asked him what oath he took when he enlisted. The oath was "...support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic..."

Each person in this room who is here by election of the people of Kansas took an oath to "uphold and protect the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Kansas". Then you signed your name to that oath. It probably won't cost you much to keep that oath. It could cost my son everything to keep his oath. The Marine's core values of "Honor, Courage, and Commitment" are what drive my son to keep his oath. I think our elected officials in Kansas and every State would be well served to take that set of values to the floor of our Congresses and fulfill their oaths.

We are at a crossroads in this country. We see our traditional values under attack on many fronts. Our laws and institutions are being challenged for the sake of political agendas, and by activist groups and cultures that do not necessarily have the best interests of America or her citizens in mind.

Kansas was forged from the spirit of freedom loving people who desired to see **all people** free and buckets of blood are soaked into our soil for that reason. They died with Honor, their Courage was commendable, and their Commitment to liberty has never been questioned. They wanted to bring Kansas into the Union, under the Constitution, as a "Free State".

From the first sacking of Lawrence in 1856 to Brown vs. Board of Education, Kansas has never shied away from the challenge and has always been a proven, committed leader for the cause of human rights. Some think our State silly for taking such costly stands. I hope you would agree that it was worth it. Well, now it's our turn.

This bill isn't about marginalizing any race, creed, or religion. It's about preserving the rights and personal liberties of **all people** whether Christian, Jew, Muslim, pagan or atheist, as set forth in our Declaration of Independence and codified in the United States Constitution.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if we don't draw a line in our good Kansas soil now, today, by supporting HB 2087, a bill that underscores your very oath to support and defend the Constitution, then when? The time is now.

Thank you!