



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Director

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Before the Joint Committee on Kansas Security
Kirk D. Thompson, Director
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
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Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's (KBI) role in investigating crimes committed against public officials.

The mission of the KBI is to provide professional investigative, laboratory, and criminal justice information services to Kansas criminal justice agencies for the purpose of promoting public safety and preventing crime. Within our Investigations Division, we have limited our acceptance of requests for investigative assistance to those that fall within one of the following categories:

- Homicide / Major Violent Crime
- Crimes Against Children
- Governmental Integrity / Public Corruption
- Violent / Drug Trafficking Organizations

Generally speaking, incidents involving credible threats to or crimes committed against public officials because of their political views or the office they hold would fall within our investigative priorities. As an assisting law enforcement agency, the KBI becomes involved in a criminal investigation upon receiving a request for assistance from another local, state, or federal agency. Upon becoming aware of a credible threat to a public official – be it a judge in rural Kansas or a statesman in the capitol city – we would accept the case, assign agent personnel, actively investigate the incident, and strive to substantially complete the investigation within 90 days.

In recent months, we have been generally made aware of a number of email scams received by senators and representatives. Some of these threaten physical harm while others demand money in exchange for information. While these instances have not involved a credible threat, each is an example of cybercrime. The threat of cyber intrusions, theft of information, and on-line fraud are growing problems for the citizens of Kansas. Currently, the KBI has no capacity to combat cybercrime and no internal cyber investigative capacity. I will discuss this emerging threat in more detail later today when I have the opportunity to speak to you about the KBI's efforts to attain optimal staffing.

Jt. Kansas Security
Attachment 8

Information sharing is the key to preventing crime before it happens. We are committed to working closely with our local, state, and federal partners to gather information, share intelligence, and impact public safety by preventing crime. As a result of the invitation to present to you today, we collaborated with the Kansas Highway Patrol's Division of Capitol Police in preparation of this briefing. As a result, we have collectively recognized the need to better document and share information regarding threats to public officials. The KBI suggests the use of the Kansas Intelligence System – a system managed by the KBI. This system, which acts as a pointer index, is available to all local and state agencies in Kansas for the purpose of documenting incidents and related information that do not necessarily rise to the level of a criminal investigation. Additionally, we would recommend the formalization of a process by which credible threats would be brought to the attention of the KBI.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the KBI's role in investigating crimes committed against public officials. As with crimes committed against other Kansas citizens, we take these matters seriously and strive to promote public safety and prevent crime to the greatest extent possible given our current resources and capacity.

I would be happy to stand for questions.

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