

Kansas Senate Federal and State Committee Members,

Our operations in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan have proven time and again that our counterinsurgency doctrine and policies do not work. Now facing a new conflict with Russia in Ukraine, our federal government will once again prove that it is great at two things: spending taxpayer money and killing young American men and women. Knowing these points to be true, many Kansans are asking themselves “Why do we continue to send the KANSAS National Guard overseas to conflicts not related to our state's security and wellbeing? Should they not be in Kansas ready to complete their missions *stateside* at a moment's notice while also fulfilling their responsibilities as parents, spouses, and children?”

We as a state receive a large amount of federal funding for our Guardsmens' abilities to deploy to international conflict zones, but I fail to believe as a Republican-controlled state that the majority of our 3 million citizens approve of this system. Isn't the Republican party synonymous with fiscal stewardship, small government, and respecting lives of service members?

Unless a formal declaration of war from the US House and Senate is made let's keep the **Kansas National Guard** where they're most needed: here **in Kansas**. *Now is a time to act Senators*. Prove your principles are more than campaign taglines before I am forced to attend more funerals for service members that I proudly call my brothers and sisters. Save the exhausted, overused 'Thank you for your service,' and show your gratitude by changing the system for our service members.

James Doyle
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