

Testimony for the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
SB 370
31 January 2022

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today and speak about SB 370 on behalf of the Adjutant General's Department.

To begin, I would like to thank all of the Members of the Legislature and the people of Kansas for your continued support of the men and women in the Kansas National Guard.

The fiscal note for this bill correctly states that the enactment of SB 370 would not have a fiscal effect. However, while the enactment of this bill would not have an immediate fiscal effect, the possible consequences from passage of this bill could have a critical fiscal impact.

The Kansas National Guard maintains and operates approximately \$4.5B worth of assets including but not limited to buildings, major weapons systems, rotary and fixed wing aircraft, and IT equipment. In FY21, the Kansas National Guard received roughly \$240M in federal dollars. Of this amount, \$133M was for pay and allowances and \$107M for operations. In comparison, the Kansas National Guard received around \$4.58M in state funds for pay and operations.

If passed, this legislation could signal to the Pentagon and Department of Defense an unwillingness by the state to uphold the federal obligation required by the dual oaths taken by National Guard members. Without a federal mission, there is little incentive for the federal government to continue funding the Kansas National Guard. This potential loss of funding would critically affect not only the Kansas National Guard, but the state of Kansas and its citizens.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today.

Respectfully submitted by:

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31 January 2022