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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 201

**Presented to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
By Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt**

May 5, 2017

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 201. This bill would amend the Kansas Consumer Protection Act to include members of the military, including active duty, active reserve unit members, and members of the National Guard as “protected consumers.” Status as a protected consumer enables our office and the county prosecutors who litigate consumer protection cases to seek enhanced penalties for violations that victimize those defined as protected consumers.

Since 2010, Kansas has included veterans and immediate family members of those serving in the military as protected consumers, but did not include active military members themselves. This bill would be a great step in continuing our commitment to protecting members of the military from scams and rip-offs.

Unfortunately, our office sees many cases of scammers who target military members or their families. The added stresses placed on these families through frequent moves and deployments makes them targets for unscrupulous actors. During my term as attorney general, we have worked to strengthen our partnership with the military bases in Kansas to make sure the military members and families are aware of the consumer protection services our office provides.

Enactment of this bill would send a further message to scammers who prey on military families that the State of Kansas is watching out for these consumers. I encourage your strong support for this bill.