

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL No. 184

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Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this hearing. I would like to take this opportunity to describe, in part, the value provided to the state by the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center. I am in a unique position, in that I have engaged with the fusion center as a consumer of intelligence but now work for the fusion center as a producer of intelligence. From June 2012 to May 2015 I served as the Kansas Army National Guard's (KSARNG) Anti-Terrorism Program Manager. During this tenure I acted as the force protection subject matter expert and was responsible for risk analysis, planning, budgets, training, and day-to-day security posture for the KSARNG facilities stretching from Liberal to Leavenworth.

During this period I witnessed the meteoric growth of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and a corresponding uptick in both reported and actual threats associated with the group. This shift in the threat landscape is captured by a July 2016 U.S. House Homeland Security Committee Majority Staff Report wherein 41 ISIL plots against the U.S. homeland are represented. Of the complete sample, 53% of the plots were inspired by ISIL and 47% were considered directed by the organization. This demonstrates a remarkable departure from historic Salaafi Jihadist plotting which has in the past largely been directed. Individuals seeking to commit acts of terror based on ideological sympathies and not on a supervisory directive are infinitely more difficult to detect and apprehend. They do not require sanction, resource allocation, or external commission. They simply act.

However, during my time as Anti-Terrorism Program Manager, the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center was able to provide me with credible and actionable intelligence that allowed me to make the most informed force protection decisions possible. Such intelligence is a rarity, given that decision-makers are frequently overwhelmed with desiderata. The vast majority of so-called intelligence that state and local decision-makers receive is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY and often amounts to nothing more than open resource reporting that has been applied to an official-looking template. This is not the case with intelligence provided by the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center due to the fact that the organization has access to those information systems used daily by members of the federal intelligence community.

This access opens the door to a trove of valuable information that is customarily unavailable to state and local stakeholders. Moreover, the intelligence within these systems represents a considerable departure from the bulletins and assessments transmitted via unclassified networks due to the availability of confidential sources and expert analysis.

Now, as a fulltime employee of the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center I realize that systems access is only part of the equation. It is true that the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center represents a one-of-kind operation

that remains unreplicated across the United States. However, the novel nature of this operation is due not only to its unprecedented access, but also to a number of other factors. These include:

- An intelligence-focused mindset, as opposed to a prosecutorial-focused mindset
- A narrowly-tailored mission set dedicated to homeland security, not attempting to cover all criminal acts
- Establishment and cultivation of relationships with federal expertise within the intelligence community
- A willingness to confront the intelligence stovepipes referenced in the 911 Commission Report and extant still today
- Recognition that the private sector must be fully-integrated into any enterprise that professes to aim at protecting American critical infrastructure

These factors culminate to form something that is uniquely Kansan: an organization that offers a practical solution to the otherwise unfulfilled intelligence needs of state, local, and private sector decision-makers using available resources to the greatest extent possible. Thus, I recommend passage of Senate Bill No. 184 in support of the innovative work done by the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center. Passage of this bill will allow the KIFC to expand its operations without undue burden to Kansas taxpayers and to increase both the scope and efficacy of information-sharing that is currently being done.