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Media Release:

## New Kansas Law Recognized as Model Legislation

The Council of State Governments', the nation's largest professional organization comprising legislative, executive, and judicial branch officials, recognized Kansas' HB 2445 as "Suggested (Model) State Legislation." HB 2445 requires local governments and military officials to meet regularly and discuss planned developments that may adversely impact the long-term viability of the military facility.

"As primary sponsor of the legislation, I am pleased that the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the Department of Defense recognize the unique value of HB 2445," said Sloan. "Preventing civilian encroachment on military facilities is important to sustain the training capabilities at Ft. Riley, McConnell Airbase, Forbes Field, and the Smokey Hill National Guard facility. These facilities contribute more than \$8 billion annually to the Kansas economy."

Kansas is the first state to require communities to alert military commanders about planned developments and permit the military to address any concerns about potential adverse impacts. The military does not have veto power over the proposed projects, but the information that they provide may guide local officials' decisions.

Governor Parkinson held a ceremonial signing ceremony in Manhattan in recognition of the important historical and future role that Ft. Riley has in Kansas. Rep. Sloan was recognized at that signing ceremony for his leadership on this bill and issue.

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