

January 20, 2022

I am a PROPONENT of HB 2133.

Chairman Owens and the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee Members:

Thank you for addressing this very serious, yet often downplayed issue. No-knock raids were introduced during a time of irrational drug war hysteria. They violate the 4th Amendment to the US Constitution, which states that REASONABLE searches are permitted, given probable cause. It is objectively unreasonable to kick down doors in the middle of the night over victimless crimes.

In theory, they are supposed to be used only in dangerous circumstances, but in practice, they are most frequently used for common searches. More than 20,000 of these searches are carried out per year in the US. Judges often rubber stamp them with little consideration to the necessity of such extreme methods. Far too often, they are carried out against the wrong address, terrorizing innocent people who may well be groggy and clearing their home with a firearm, as one should expect in a such a heavily armed country. This results in the serious injuries or deaths of police, innocent people and pets, to say nothing of the psychological trauma of such Gestapo-like tactics.

An ACLU study of 800 SWAT deployments in 2011-2012 found 79 percent were to execute search warrants, typically for drug investigations, while a mere 7 percent were to deal with hostage situations, barricades, or active shooters. The same ACLU study reported, "Of the cases we studied, in 36 percent of SWAT deployments are for drug searches, and possibly in as many as 65 percent of such deployments, no contraband of any sort was found."

There are countless stories of "informants" reporting false information and "SWATing" innocent people and most of these tense situations could be defused by merely knocking on the door and contacting those inside. Not even police officers are safe from these raids, as Officer Adam Sowders was killed by his own Texas department in 2013, acting on false information given to them by a criminal with no preliminary investigation. 19 month old Bounkham Phonesevah was maimed by a flash bang grenade tossed into her crib, 92 year old Kathryn Johnston was fatally shot 39 times, 57 year old Alberta Spruill had a fatal heart attack, all while raiding the wrong homes, the examples go on and on. There are much safer ways to apprehend suspects and search premises in the vast majority of these cases.

Help uphold the US Constitution and protect the lives of our law enforcement officers and Kansans by putting an end to no-knock raids.

In liberty,

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