

To the Chairman and members of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee-

My name is Mary Snipes. I am a constituent from Geary County, City of Junction City, Kansas 66441. I am submitting testimony concerning the concealed carry reciprocity bill. HB 2326 recognizes licenses to carry a concealed firearm issued by other jurisdictions. I oppose this bill, because this is a bill to continue to make our families, communities, schools, homes, neighborhoods, parks, stores, and states dangerously unsafe. This bill will be a setback for Kansas gun laws.

HB 2326 allows individuals to carry a concealed handgun into or possess a handgun in another state whether or not they would be qualified to do so by concealed carry standards for Kansas. Concealed carry reciprocity will not reduce crime nor protect individuals, instead HB 2326 can threaten public safety. This committee should be doing more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic violence perpetrators, violators of protective orders, and those with a dangerous mental illness; ending guns on college campuses; and purchasing guns on the internet and at gun shows without a background checks.

Our son Felix Snipes was shot in Junction City, Kansas on Friday, August 31st, 2018 and he later died in Topeka, Kansas at the age of 29. In Junction City, the stats for all injuries involving a firearm including suicide and murders are as follows: in 2014 there were 11, in 2015 there were 9, in 2016 there were 13, in 2017 there were 12, and in 2018 there were 9 (our son included). We know that African Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun violence. We need to hold individuals accountable for the crimes that they commit and hold individuals responsible for what they do, especially if they continue to be criminals.

We need to think of preventive bills instead of dangerous bills. HB 2326 is a dangerous gun bill. My family wants to end or prevent gun violence along with any senseless acts of violence. We all need to take a stand on gun safety solutions for our state, families, communities, neighborhoods. We all want to live in safe environments, schools, parks, homes, and anywhere children play. Losing a child is like a form of "EMPTINESS!" Please vote no on HB 2326.

v/r,

Mary Snipes