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**Testimony to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
In Opposition of HB2033  
February 6, 2013**

Chairman Siegfried and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers oppose the legalization of switchblade knives, daggers, dirks, and stiletto as proposed in HB2033.

A dagger, stiletto, and dirk are nearly interchangeable and may be described as follows:



**Examples of Daggers**

Over the years, the term 'dagger' has been used to describe a wide variety of thrusting knives. Over the last hundred years or so, authorities have recognized that the dagger, in its contemporary or mature form, has come to incorporate certain definable characteristics, including a short blade with a sharply-tapered point, a central [spine](#) or [fuller](#), and (usually) two cutting edges sharpened the full length of the blade, or nearly so. Most daggers also feature a full crossguard to keep the hand from

riding forwards onto the sharpened blade edges. Another distinctive feature of the modern dagger is that it is designed to position the blade horizontally when using a conventional [palm grip](#), enabling the user to slash right or left as well as thrust the blade between an opponent's ribs. The twin full-length edges enable the user to make broad slashes (cuts) using either a forehand or backhand arm movement, while the sharp, acutely-pointed tip makes the knife an effective thrusting or stabbing weapon. This versatility distinguishes the modern dagger from more specialized thrusting knives, such as the [stiletto](#). (Source: Wikipedia)

A dirk is often described as a long thrusting dagger.

These weapons are generally designed for hand-to-hand combat most often to make slashing wounds or thrusting wounds to the chest and abdomen. We don't hear as much about them because they have been illegal for many years. These weapons are easily concealed and more years ago than I would like to think I can remember, they were weapons of choice among outlaw motorcycle gangs and other groups engaged in illegal activity. I can only speculate the frequency

of their use in gang disputes, and other assaults, including assaults on law enforcement officers is what led to the statutory prohibitions that exist today.

In regards to switchblades, this issue was debated several years ago and the main idea was to authorize the use of common knives of today which can be flipped open with the thumb. Through compromise we worked with the knife manufacturers and agreed to the language that HB2033 recommends to strike on page 5, lines 23-27; and on page 7, lines 37-41. It is our belief that language addresses that issue. The agreed to language continued to ban knives that open through a spring load with a release button, or switchblade knife.

We do not believe it is in the interest of public safety or officer safety to legalize these weapons as suggested in HB2033. We urge you to reject HB2033.

Ed Klumpp

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