



Individual Liberty
Economic Liberty
Strengthen Families
Sovereign States Rights
Ending Judicial Activism

March 13, 2015

SB 45 Open Carry

Proponent testimony in favor of this bill

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

In Kansas, it is already legal to carry a firearm openly, as long as the individual is not prohibited by law from possessing a firearm. With that being said, if a firearm becomes covered by a coat or an individual prefers to place it in a handbag or purse they would need a concealed carry permit. So this would make for a very fine line for a law abiding citizen to walk or become a criminal.

Currently Alaska, Arizona, Wyoming and Vermont already have "open carry". You have no way of recognizing those states because there is not a "wild, wild west" occurring or happening in those states. In fact the more open gun laws are in the states the fewer violent crimes are committed.

Our Federal and State Constitutions clearly state "the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed". I won't be the first to state that the Kansas Supreme Court will not redefine "***shall not***", but those of us with an education past third grade understand that definition. In the meantime we need to recognize our constitutional right to our citizens and prevent any chance of creating criminals out of law abiding citizens.

I think two other issues need to be addressed.

Training – the entire population of this state may purchase a firearm if they over 21 (pistols), 18 (long guns). YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE TRAINING TO OWN A GUN. So this idea that you need to have training to carry is intellectually disingenuous at best. The conceal training itself ranges from extreme to nothing across the U.S.. We have thousands of people that shot competitively, hunt and practice constantly. The vast majority of these folks do not have "conceal carry licenses" nor did they get "state mandated training". It is already a requirement from the state in order to get a hunting license you have to take a course – that doesn't require shooting or actual training with the weapon. This is a bureaucratic requirements on the people, it's simply not needed.

Government vs people - Founding Father and first president of the United States, George Washington, said that the right to bear arms is the "*peoples' liberty's teeth*." The third president of the U.S., Thomas Jefferson said, "*No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms*." Benjamin Franklin brings forth the affirmation as well when he said, "*Never trust a government that doesn't trust its own citizens with guns*."

Are we interested in trying to "control" the populous or protecting fundamental rights that we all have. The only question I have is, is where is the Kansas legislature on this issue?

Respectfully Submitted,

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