

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Ostmeier at 9:00am on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Robert Olson – Excused

Committee staff present:  
Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department  
Connie Burns, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:  
Representative Blake Carpenter  
Larry Richardson, Derby B-B Gun Club  
Tom Bruno, Topeka, Kansas

Others in attendance:  
[See Attached List](#)

**Introduction of Bills**

Senator Holland requested a bill introduction concerning campaign finances; prohibiting certain contributions by contractors with public entities.

*There being no objection from any member present, the Chairman declared a motion to introduce the bill adopted by consensus.*

**Committee Minutes**

Chairman Ostmeier called for approval of minutes for March 16 and 17 distributed on March 21, 2016.

*Senator LaTurner made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Senator Faust-Goudeau seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**HB 2468 - Authorizing possession of air guns on school property.**

Chairman Ostmeier opened the hearing on **HB 2468**.

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Staff provided an overview of the bill.

Representative Blake Carpenter appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)) The bill prohibits a school district from adopting a policy that would prohibit an organization from conducting activities on school property solely because the activities include the possession and use of air guns by participants.

Larry J. Richardson, Derby B-B-gun Club, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#)) Passage of the bill will allow officially and specifically the use of school facilities throughout Kansas for air gun safety training and practice as a modification of the current statewide guns in schools policy.

Written testimony was provided in support of the bill by:

Senator Mike Petersen ([Attachment 3](#))

Kathleen Wade, JD, President, The Kansas State Rifle Association (KSRA) ([Attachment 4](#))

Travis Couture-Lovelady, State Liaison, National Rifle Association of America ([Attachment 5](#))

Susie Klausmeyer, County 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator for Sedgwick County ([Attachment 6](#))

Emma Klausmeyer, Shooter from Sedgwick County ([Attachment 7](#))

Mary Klausmeyer, 4-H Member and 4-H Shooting Sports Team Member ([Attachment 8](#))

Abigail Klausmeyer, Shooter and 4-H Club Member ([Attachment 9](#))

Kati Thul, Parent and 4-H Club Leader ([Attachment 10](#))

Caden Thul, Student in Sedgwick County ([Attachment 11](#))

Sarah Knolla, 4th grade teacher, involved in the Sedgwick County 4-H Shooting Sports program ([Attachment 12](#))

R Matthew Joyce, parent in the USD #260 school district ([Attachment 13](#))

Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards, (KASB) provided written testimony in opposition to the bill. ([Attachment 14](#)) KASB does not have a position on air gun policies, but has adopted the following statement:

**Limit State Intervention.** We believe state policies should address outcomes to be achieved, not

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Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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methods to achieve them. State intervention should be focused on schools or districts that fail to meet ambitious but reasonable standards.

The bill does not address student educational outcomes, but instead concerns local school board policies regarding school facilities, student activities and district safety and liability. The bill seeks to prohibit local school boards from adopting policies that prohibits an organization from conducting activities on school property solely because such activities include the possession and use of air guns by the participants.

Tom Bruno, representing himself, but serves as At-Large Board of Education Member for Auburn-Washburn, USD #437, spoke as neutral on the bill. ([Attachment 15](#)) The bill, as passed the House, would prevent local districts from determining their own facility usage policies, and that is of concern. USD #437 has facility use policies in place to allow members of the taxpaying public the opportunity to use the facilities they pay for through their tax dollars; at the same time the board has created use policies that are in place to protect the investment taxpayers have made in those same facilities.

As fate would have it, USD #437s Airforce Jr. ROTC program came to the board meeting on March 21, 2016, to request starting an air rifle team. They have a plan to use an older building the district uses for storage and have a secured grant for funding and are doing fundraising to get the necessary supplies for the team. Since that activity is currently allowed under state law, under KSA 72-89a02, Mr. Bruno fully supports the request.

Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **HB 2468**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.