

7 March, 2017

To the Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

I understand that HB 2220, a prohibiting college and university campuses from adopting any policy governing carrying concealed guns, is to be heard on Thursday morning. I am a faculty member at Kansas State University and I have lecture on Thursday, which makes attending the hearing difficult. I write now in place of attending in person.

I am in my 27th year of teaching at KSU. I have helped some 2500 students, most of them Kansans, become electrical engineers; many of them work in the state now, designing GPS systems, building and maintaining our electric grid, writing computer programs hospitals need to keep patient data safe. I direct the Kansas Wind Applications Center, which has helped 25 school districts in Kansas install small wind turbines for education. I have spoken at schools, answered countless teacher questions, and given dozens of public presentations on wind energy, one of this state's most valuable assets. I love what I do. I believe I am helping build this state and make its citizens wiser—at least, the ones still alive, with guns running loose all over the state!

And I am quitting this job. I am leaving Kansas this summer, for only one reason: I cannot and will not teach in a workplace where anyone I meet may carry a gun, where someone may bring a gun into my workspace without my permission, where any one of my students may bring a gun into my lecture. I will never touch a gun myself, and I will not be around them. I will not stay and lose another student to suicide--one is already too many. I will not stay and hear one of my students has been threatened, hurt or killed by another student in a fit of temper. My students agree that allowing guns on campus is crazy. 70% of students and faculty at KSU agree allowing guns on campus is crazy, and Ft Hays, Pittsburg and KU all have similar statistics.

HB 2220 simply extends the insanity. What possible use is it, anyway: all it says is the universities must obey this other law—why does anyone think a law demanding obedience to another law is necessary? Of all the idiocy: please, defeat this stupid bill!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruth Douglas Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Ruth Douglas Miller

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