

Dear Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen, I have requested to appear before this committee to offer my perspective on SB-45. Previously I testified before the Senate committee when they were considering the viability of SB-45. I stood in opposition to the passage of SB-45 simply because it eliminates any training requirement for law-abiding citizens to be able to carry a firearm concealed, in public, for self defense. Not only that, it also removes the requirement of law-abiding citizens to know anything about the law pertaining to the use of firearms for self defense.

Proponents of this bill will frequently state that criminals don't care about the law and that criminals will carry guns regardless of what the law says. I completely agree with that statement. Criminals will do whatever they want, regardless of the law. We don't need to concern ourselves with the criminal element. We need to concern ourselves with law-abiding citizens and how the law applies to them. We need to ensure that law-abiding citizens at least have easy access to pertinent information concerning firearms usage and the law.

I know for a fact, that the average citizen does not have any idea what the legal liabilities are pertaining to using a handgun against another human being, even if they feel it is justified to do so. Who on this committee can tell me what deadly force is. I guarantee you that the average citizen can't describe what deadly force is. How do I know this? Because I have been teaching concealed carry for the state of Kansas since Jan. of 2007.

Proponents of this bill say that we need to pass this bill because it is our right to bear arms. "What part of shall not be infringed do you not understand?" Under the pretext of we have to pass this bill to ensure our rights under the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment, are not jeopardized and we cannot allow some precedent that could be used to erode our 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights; they overlook the fundamental responsibility of being good stewards of this most important of all the amendments.

As a United State Marine veteran of over 20 years and a life member of the NRA for 32 years, I hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment as sacred and above all the laws of this land. In keeping with that, I fervently believe that we must guard the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment against any and all possible repercussions wrought by its misapplication.

How can we be guilty of misapplication you ask. I firmly believe and have argued, that the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment denotes a requirement for training. What part of well regulated do you not understand? The founding fathers well understood the importance of this unassailable term. No matter how you try and apply the term, "well regulated," it comes out with the same unequivocal meaning, it means training.

By requiring citizens to know the law, by providing them with easy access to the laws they need to know and by providing them with information on proper firearms safety, we are actually protecting them and safe-guarding their 2<sup>nd</sup> amemdemt rights and protecting the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment.

There is an easy solution to this problem and it will be free to the citizens of Kansas. So that eliminates the argument about not being able to afford a license. I am for doing away with licensing and back-ground checks but not at the risk of the welfare of the citizen and that is exactly what no training/information does.

During the senate committee meeting on SB-45 it was mentioned that citizens can already carry openly but if they chose to wear a coat or if a woman wanted to put her handgun in a purse, then they would be in violation of the law. So, considering that a citizen isn't responsible enough to follow the law as written, the law needs to be changed to compensate for their irresponsilbe behavior. That statement tends to lend itself to my argument, that people cannot always be relied on to take responsibility for their actions.

My solution would be a website with safety rules and an explanation of those rules as well as the reason the rules are important. It would also be prudent to state the laws that apply to the use of deadly force and liabilities that are associated with the carrying and use of a handgun. Once the citizen that desires to carry a concealed handgun has read this information, they can print off a confirmation form and sign it. The form will have a computer generated date on it. In the event they are ever required to prove that they have read this information, they will have the form to prove that they have complied with this mandate. There will be no government maintained records, no licensing, no back-ground checks. It sounds like a win-win to me, something that we can coalesce around.

I have trained thousands of Marines in all kinds of marksmanship skills. I have trained hundreds of Kansans to carry a concealed handgun. I train people everytime I am at any type of shooting facility and I know first hand, how lacking people can be when it comes to personal responsibility concerning firearms. This free information on the internet would at least help them to take the first step, in firearms responsibility. We have a duty of care to our fellow citizens and a responsibility of stewardship to the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,

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