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I am concerned about some of the amendments contained in SB 45, specifically the proposed amendments to the Personal and Family Protection Act that would negate the requirement to have training and a license in order to carry a concealed handgun in Kansas. I believe that the training, background check, and licensing system is a very important part of the Personal and Family Protection Act.

First, I would like to give you a little bit of my background before getting to the reasons for my opposition. I grew up on a farm in North Central Kansas and I have lived in Kansas all of my life. I was taught to shoot and hunt as soon as I was able to aim a gun, and I went through hunter safety. A large part of my learning to shoot and hunt was learning how to handle a gun and especially how to be safe with a gun. I realize that I am lucky to have had that experience and that many do not have that experience. I have had a Kansas concealed carry license for five years now and I am a member of the NRA. I continue to be an avid hunter.

That being said, the amendments in SB 45 discourage responsible and safe firearm handling. Even though I have handled guns nearly my entire life, I still learned many things in the concealed carry training that are invaluable for carrying concealed. How many people without formal training truly think about what constitutes a real threat and especially who and what is behind and around that threat? How many without any formal training are aware of the laws governing use of lethal force and the resources available that interpret those laws and changes to those laws? These are the types of topics that training attendees are asked to consider. Learning about these topics protect those carrying concealed and the people around them. Concealed carry training made me safer and made those around me safer. It would be irresponsible to get rid of the training and testing requirement. I have personal friends who own a handgun and would carry that gun concealed if these amendments pass. Many of those friends I would not feel safe around unless they first went through the training that is currently required.

If we truly think about these things while laying aside all other biases, we will see that these amendments will put in danger more Kansans than they will protect. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote against the safety of Kansans.

I am sure that even those who support these amendments would agree that a safe and knowledgeable gun handler is much better than one who, each time they reach for a firearm, doesn't think about the topics covered in concealed carry training. Help to educate those who have firearms and you will create individuals who have more respect for firearms, individuals who are more interested in firearms, and thereby individuals who will participate in more firearm related activities. I would challenge you to find a person who went through the training and didn't come out of it knowing what pistol they were going to buy next because someone else a couple booths down on the shooting range introduced them to it. They now know where the shooting range is and the rules for using the shooting range. They are much more likely to use that shooting range and practice the skills that make them a safer shooter. After I took the

training class I have been back to the shooting range we used for the class, as well as another one near it multiple times, and I joined the shooting range in Lawrence.

There is a compromise that I would like to see: the reduction of the fees for training, licensing, and the background check. That would remove barriers for a responsible gun owner to obtain the license and become a more educated and safe firearm owner. That would protect more Kansans including the person carrying a concealed firearm and all of those in the vicinity.