

Testimony of Michelle Reed
Permitless Carry
March 11, 2015

Thank you for inviting me to testify about this important issue. My name is Michelle Reed and I am a mom and a volunteer with the Kansas chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I am here today representing Kansas Moms who oppose SB 45, specifically the amendments that would negate the need to have a permit in order to carry a concealed handgun in Kansas.

As a mother, I will do anything and everything to keep my children protected and safe. I know that anything can happen, and that is why it is important to keep vital gun safety measures intact in the state of Kansas.

There is a reason that a concealed permit system is in place in Kansas, not to mention forty-five other states in the country—it's effective. The system makes sure that people carrying concealed handguns in public have clean recent criminal histories and have completed basic safety training.

If a permit is no longer required to carry a gun, law enforcement officers will not be able to determine whether an armed suspect is a dangerous criminal. If you enact SB 45, the jobs of law enforcement officers will be made infinitely more difficult, and our public safety would be put at risk.

The current permit system protects our families by preventing inexperienced people from carrying guns in public. Basic handgun safety training courses are currently required before a person can obtain a permit. These basic courses help people learn how to handle handguns safely. They prevent novices from making mistakes that would jeopardize themselves or others—mistakes that can be deadly.

When you drive a car, you must accept that your mistakes or carelessness on the road could threaten your or somebody else's life. That's why we have a system in place to ensure that people who get behind the wheel of a car have proper training. To suggest that the same should not be true for someone who carries a gun is irresponsible and dangerous.

In Kansas, we understand the importance of the Second Amendment. But we can preserve the right to bear arms without having to worry about our children sharing public spaces with untrained, dangerous people.

SB 45's changes to Kansas law would endanger our children and our communities. Please do not fix what isn't broken. Please do not throw critical gun safety measures by the wayside. Oppose SB 45.