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Written and Oral Testimony in Favor of HB 2468

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Hello my name is Emma Klausmeyer and I am a shooter from Sedgwick County. I have been in the shooting program for nine years. Over the past nine years I have learned many valuable life lessons. The first thing I remember in shooting was learning all the safety rules and how they must be followed at all times. I learned all about not only safe gun handling but how if I ever found a gun how I was supposed to touch and I was to go find an adult and have them know what to do.

I am not athletic in the traditional sense so I did not participate in other sports as a kid. Shooting gave me a sport and now I am no longer that awkward kid. Through shooting I have learned good sportsmanship. I learned from my very first match to congratulate not only those who shot better than I but also those who had a lesser score. I also learned that even when you had a bad day or did not medal you should stay and support your fellow teammates.

As I got older I was offered the opportunity to be trained as a junior instructor. This was a huge opportunity and was very eye opening. I spent three days learning how to teach gun safety and coach new shooters. I was then able to return to my county and help the new beginners. I have learned a lot of patience and leadership skills through this opportunity.

As I have grown in the program I have been able to learn different types of disciplines. As a young nine year old I started in BB gun. This taught me the fundamentals of shooting. Toward the end of my BB years I had the opportunity to go shoot at the Daisy National BB Gun competition in Rogers, Arkansas. Six other shooters from Sedgwick County joined me at this tournament. This was a new experience because I was able to have a new sense of team and to see all the other shooters throughout the nation. Next I went into air rifle. As an air rifle shooter I was able to expand on my shooting skills. This past year I had the opportunity to go shoot at the

4-H Nationals in Grand Island, Nebraska. This was a difficult yet rewarding trip. Unlike the BB Nationals, the air rifle team was made up of four shooters from across the state of Kansas. While I was there I not only strengthened my friendship with those on the Kansas team, but was able to create new ones with those from other states. I have learned a lot through this experience. Finally this year I decided to try out Air pistol. This is very new to me because up until now I have been shooting rifles. This has been a huge learning experience because I had to completely learn a new shooting style, but nevertheless it is just as fun. I recently have started shooting .22 rifle which is shot outdoors this is very new to me as BB and Air Rifle have always been shot indoors.

Without shooting I would not have had these wonderful experiences and I urge you to support the HB2468 so other kids can have the same experiences I did. Thank you.