

January 26, 2016

Written testimony in Favor of HB2468

Mary Klausmeyer, 4-H Member and 4-H Shooting Sports Team Member

I am a member of the 4-H Shooting Sports Team for Sedgwick County. I have shot for five years and recently started coaching some of the younger shooters. I have learned many life skills from my experiences over the past five years that I will use throughout my entire life. I have had the opportunity to participate at multiple shooting matches throughout the state and also participate in the Daisy BB Gun National Competition three times. Through all of these matches, I have met many new people that I wouldn't have before. As someone who was never interested in traditional sports, shooting was a great way for me to meet new people and have many experiences that other kids will never get. When I first joined shooting sports, I had to attend a safety class and the things I learned then are still practiced and enforced when I shoot today. In all of the matches I have competed in, safety is the number one rule and the range officers, always on the line, constantly enforce the safety rules. Unlike many people think, I have not only learned about gun safety in my shooting career, but also many other skills that will benefit me. I have learned about leadership by coaching younger shooters as well as setting a good example when we are at matches. I have learned about teamwork while participating at national competitions when working together with my team was more important than the scores we shot. Through shooting sports, I have not only learned about gun safety and many other lifelong skills, but I have also met many lifelong friends and had many experiences that I will always remember. Shooting sports is growing in popularity and I think that passing this bill will give more young people a place to shoot and many more people will be able to experience the benefits I have through shooting.