

Testimony
of
Joe Neville
Political Director
National Association for Gun Rights

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address Senate Bill 45.

My name is Joe Neville, and I am the political director of the National Association for Gun Rights, a member supported organization with nearly 90 thousand members in the State of Kansas.

Senate Bill 45 is a relatively simple, yet profoundly meaningful bill.

At the heart of the bill is the idea that rights are not subject to the whims of local municipalities, or even to the caprice of state legislatures.

By rendering the concealed carry permit optional within the state of Kansas, we will be joining the likes of Arizona, Alaska, Wyoming and Vermont in recognizing citizens' rights to keep and bear arms extends beyond the home.

But we will also be recognizing another fundamental truth.

The choice to wear a garment over your weapon does not render the weapon any more dangerous, and should not be punishable under law.

Let's be clear.

Open carry is legal. The only thing that requires a permit is putting on a coat while you carry.

I for one do not want to have to choose on a cold winters' day between having the ability to protect myself or my family, and suffering hypothermia.

Right now, that is the choice Kansans face each time the winter winds blow in from the north.

Senate Bill 45 is a very simple bill.

It doesn't allow anyone to carry a weapon that cannot legally possess one.

Criminals will not suddenly be able to legally carry a gun.

This bill does nothing more than restore law-abiding gun owners' ability to put on a coat while carrying their legally owned firearms.

Thank you for your time, and please vote yes on SB-45 without any amendments.