

SB 153 restricting concealed carry in libraries without any security

As a frequent library patron, I am opposed to changing the current law, in order to prohibit carrying my firearm into public libraries. I love to read, so I always have multiple books checked out. I am also a mother, and my sons also have picked up the habit of stopping by a library on a regular basis. We have no fear of someone who is armed, as long as their gun stays in their holster. Because of where I live, I happen to patronize 5 different Kansas libraries fairly often, and occasionally some of the Wichita libraries as well. So, if this law gets changed, it would severely impact me.

Ever since I passed the requirements in 2009, and had my concealed carry license, I've been carrying into unposted libraries whenever I go. As an older woman who has health issues, I know there will be no other way I'm going to defeat an attacker, unless I'm armed. Walking to and from my car to the libraries, isn't usually a dangerous walk, but crimes have known to happen all too often in places people think are "safe." Most of all, I worry about a criminal breaking in my car and stealing my firearm, if I have to leave it in the car to go inside somewhere. In addition, most negligent discharges of a firearm happen when either removing or replacing a handgun in a holster. So, it is much safer if I am allowed to keep my gun on me at all times, instead of having to remove it, and place it where it is no longer under my control. I usually carry concealed, so no one even knows I'm armed when I'm in the library. However, after the law changed this summer, I have open carried on a few occasions. I know at least one of those times, I made a stop in a library I frequent. No one even noticed that I had a gun on my hip, because my behavior was not threatening.

If there is not adequate security, including metal detectors and armed guards, there is nothing to prevent someone with evil intent from carrying a gun into a library. I really don't expect to need my gun inside a library, but I'd much rather have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.

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