



To: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Eric B. Smith

Date: February 19, 2015

RE: Opposition to SB 65

Thank you for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to provide testimony in opposition to SB 65. Municipalities, as employers, are no different than employers in the private sector and employee policies are established for many reasons. Municipal employers should retain the ability to create policies concerning what is or is not permitted by employees while performing duties on behalf of the employer. Municipalities should maintain the authority to regulate their employees concerning the carrying of weapons. The League opposes the State interfering in the employment policies of local governments.

We understand that the right to bear arms is a constitutional right. At the same time, as an employer, a city has certain duties and obligations. Many personnel policies are established to reduce liability for the employer, as well as protecting the rights of all employees. Employees are made aware of the conditions of work when they are offered a job, and should give consideration at that point as to whether they wish to join an employer.

The League submits that it is reasonable for municipal employers to have the same latitude as private employers and set the employment policies necessary to meet their communities' needs. We respectfully request that the Committee not pass out SB 65.