

Message from the Governor

I have repeatedly demonstrated my support for gun ownership because it's an important part of our state's heritage and way of life. I myself am one of thousands of Kansans who enjoys hunting, and I believe all law-abiding Kansans have the right to own a weapon for their protection and the protection of their families. That's why I've supported common-sense improvements to Kansas gun laws, such as allowing retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons.

I also have supported measures to make our gun laws more uniform so gun owners don't inadvertently violate an ordinance when traveling from one community to another. That's what this bill purports to do, however it actually sets up greater inconsistencies and creates new threats to public safety.

For example, concealed weapons currently may be banned at professional and school sporting events, however this bill would prevent communities from banning them at similar such events at city or county sports fields. If it is in the interest of public safety to not have weapons at school-sponsored sporting events, it makes little sense to then prohibit local officials from banning guns at other sporting events, as this bill would propose.

Local officials have the responsibility to keep their residents safe, and should have the authority to make reasonable decisions. Working with law enforcement officials and representatives from local communities, legislators had agreed on a compromise that would provide a balance between the interests of gun owners in consistent laws, and the interests in keeping Kansans safe, however this good-faith agreement was removed by an amendment on the Senate floor.

Therefore, since this bill diminishes the critical public safety authority of local officials, and creates further inconsistencies in the gun laws of Kansas, pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I veto HB 2528. If the Legislature decides to take further action on this issue, I would strongly encourage them to pass the compromise language adopted by the Senate Committee Federal and State Affairs.

Signed _____

Approved _____

