



Kansas State Rifle Association
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RE: House Federal and State Affairs Committee
House Bill No. 2422 Hearing

Dear Chairman Brunk and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering my testimony. My name is Patricia Stoneking and I am the President and Registered Lobbyist for The Kansas State Rifle Association and I represent over 6000 KSRA members, 48,000 NRA members and over 40,000 concealed carry permit licensees. I am a proponent of House Bill Number 2422.

This bill is very simple. It puts Corrections Officers in the same category as Law Enforcement Officers in regards to how they obtain a Concealed Carry Permit. The training requirement is waived and the permit fee is reduced from \$132.50 to \$75.00, \$25.00 payable to the Sheriff of the County where the applicant resides and \$50.00 payable to the Attorney General.

They must be certified according to the Kansas commission on peace officer's standards and training, or similar body from another jurisdiction, not more than eight years prior to their application. They are still required to renew every four years and pay the renewal fee of \$25.00 and they are still bound by all other laws pertaining to concealed carry and the use of deadly force.

The average salary for a Corrections Officer in Kansas ranges from \$30,544 to \$46,897 per year. It will vary based on experience and duties. Corrections Officers have passed Polygraph Tests and Psychological Tests among others. They must pass a background check and have never been convicted of a felony. These individuals have already met the standard for the issuance of a concealed carry permit.

Corrections Officers often deal with very violent criminals, some of whom may carry grudges against these corrections officers and seek revenge on them after their release. These corrections officers are certainly entitled to the same benefits that we afford Law Enforcement Officials. I believe that this bill simply clears up a matter of equality among our most dedicated of civil servants and makes it more affordable for these Officers to obtain a concealed carry permit.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for considering our position in this most important matter. We respectfully urge that you vote in support of HB 2422, recommend it for passage, and send it to the floor of the House for a vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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