

**Testimony on HB 2353**  
**House Federal and State Affairs Committee**  
**January 25, 2012**  
**Sidna Small, Wilson County Resident**

My first impression of what guns could do was as a small girl in 1951 in Fredonia when my father had met his lawyer at the Wilson County Courthouse in Fredonia to sign some papers for the purchase of a farm. When we left the room we met another man coming in who then at point blank range shot and killed Larry McSpadin—right there at the same desk where we had been. My father, who was a WWII veteran, was upset that anyone was in the area with his family who would do such harm.

I then took my first NRA Pistol Self Defense class for women in 1983. We were taught different scenarios of how to defend and take care of myself. I know that if a 911 call can take from 15 to 40 minutes, then I needed to be able to defend my young family. The sheriff had warned me to always watch my backside and be aware of the people around me.

My first chance to qualify for my Concealed Carry Permit was in the fall of 2006. And when I was finger printed for the first time in my life, I was lead into the jail and behind both sets of locked doors. The Sheriff, Dan Bath, explained that some of his boarders might know me and then the word would be out NOT to bother me.

My biggest fear is when I am at a evening meeting and can't have my concealed carry with me, I am not covered going into the courthouse, while in the courthouse, and coming to my car! These are three most important periods of when a woman can be taken as hostage.

For a time I taught evening classes at Independence Community College, both at the campus and in the Neodesha school. The class was a P.E. class called Jazz Dance. Therefore the uniform was leotards and tights. My mother worried about this when I would be leaving a class that I might encounter a problem in the night. I did try to protect myself by taking a self-defense Karate course.

I have served on four National Jamboree Staffs, three National Order of the Arrow Conference Staff, and helped over 50 boys to get their Eagle. I travel to Wichita, Scout camps all over the mid section of the county, to Virginia, Michigan, and Indiana.

I am a deer hunter and other big game. The last thing I ever want is to have to use my weapon to defend myself and my family, but that is what I have trained to do if the need ever arises.

Sidna Small

(Personal information is listed below.)

Married to Arthur Small for over 46 years

Wilson County Rancher/ Farmer

Public School Teacher / Substitute Teacher for 47 years

Boy Scouter with a Silver Beaver ( highest award that a council can give), two Eagle Scout sons,

Serve on Wilson County Zoning Committee, Wilson County Fair Board, Past President of the

Extension of Wilson County

Reappointed to Governor's Southeast Library Board

Have received both the Cross and Flame Award and the Torch Award from the Methodist Church for my work with youth.

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