

Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Chairman Brunk and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

My name is Chad Baker and I live in Sedgwick County. I could not travel there today because of work obligations. I am a Tool Designer with Spirit AeroSystems but I am also an avid hunter and fisherman. I am a great sportsman and obey all the laws and regulations.

I want to exercise my God-given right to protect myself during my hunting and fishing activities. The current regulations restrict this right. I believe making me disarm makes me vulnerable. Thanks to the Kansas Legislature for passing a good law last year that allows Conceal Carry Handgun permit holders to defend themselves while hunting and fishing. But I believe all lawful handgun possessors should have that same right to protect themselves while hunting and fishing. I should not have to become a Conceal Carry Permit holder to carry a handgun while hunting or fishing because Kansas Constitution clearly gives me this right.

Obtaining a CCH is a burden and is unnecessary especially in rural settings. CCH law was a way to compensate for municipalities that create restrictive ordinances. The state of Kansas rightfully does not have such a restriction, that is unless you are hunting or fishing. This needs to change!

I think it is a good idea for hunters and fisherman to have the right to open carry. Many times in the past, especially fishing, I have met some pretty shady people either drunk on drugs or acting very weird. Hunting is no problem to me since I am carrying a weapon already and know how to use it, but when fishing, I am occupied and have nothing with me to protect myself. And since my accident a few years back that leaves me with a limp when I walk, people see I have a weakness. One of these days, someone might take advantage of that and what better way to do that than target a guy along a lake next to the woods when no one else is around. But if they see that I am carrying a sidearm which is very visible they say to themselves, "no need to mess with this individual."

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Please support and pass HB2491.

You may contact me with questions.

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