



March 21, 2013

RE: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
House Bill No. 2111 Hearing

Thank you Chairman Siegfried and Honorable Members of the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the entire Libertarian Party of Kansas in support of HB 2111.

This bill is desperately needed to help protect law enforcement and law-abiding citizens who choose to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights in Kansas.

The Libertarian Party of Kansas has always been supportive of small government at its most local level where communities can handle their own issues in an effective and efficient way. However, that support ends when any level of government, and in this case local government, violates the liberties and freedoms of the citizens. For us, the issue before us today regarding Open Carry firearms is about self-ownership, the relevance of Constitutional law and reducing legal monopolies on force.

We believe that every human being owns his or her self. We also believe that everyone has the basic human right to personal security. No one truly has self-ownership without the right of personal responsibility. The ability to consistently open carry firearms gives an option for citizens to have self-responsibility of their security and thus self-ownership.

There are three cities - Kansas City, Leawood, and Prairie Village who on record have chosen to defy current state open carry law. When any city in Kansas defies the rule of law, particularly those guaranteed rights in our State and Federal Constitution, the rule of law becomes irrelevant. This is an incredibly dangerous practice at any level of government. When government and law become irrelevant, confusion, chaos and loss of liberty and freedom follow. The exercising of basic human rights are never contingent on time or space.

Currently, the Libertarian Party of Kansas is engaged in a civil suit filed to put an immediate end to these cities' open carry bans. We have helped convince several other cities in Kansas to overturn their city open carry bans. We need statewide uniformity to end confusion and to stop inconsistencies. This proposed legislation is urgently needed to eliminate doubt about the rules when Kansans exercise their right to individual security through open carry firearms.

We are very supportive of preempting all city and county open carry firearm ordinances.

Respectfully,

Al Terwelp, State Chair
Libertarian Party of Kansas
12156 S. Stanley Rd.
Overbrook, KS 66524
785-665-7581