



To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Nathan Eberline – Associate Legislative Director & Legal Counsel

Date: March 21, 2013

Re: Opposition to House Bill 2111

I am writing to express concern on House Bill 2111. This testimony has little to do with gun control and everything to do with local control. The Kansas Association of Counties opposes big levels of government imposing blanket rules on smaller levels of government. Much like our State's opposition to federal regulators setting rules in Kansas, KAC advocates for allowing local communities to set their own standards. For this reason, we oppose HB 2111.

As suggested above, we do not oppose concealed carry. But under the general principles of police power, municipalities focus on issues ranging from health and sanitation to transportation and public safety. It is the principle of public safety that led Kansas communities to regulate firearms dating back to the Wyatt-Earp Era. If a county takes a stance on setting security measures through self-governance, then KAC supports the measure.

HB 2111 would prohibit cities and counties from adopting ordinances, resolutions, or regulations regarding carrying firearms. The exception, however, is that it would be unlawful to possess a firearm within any jail, juvenile correctional facility, juvenile detention facility, or prison. KAC supports its counties in the prospect that there may be other areas that warrant consideration and potential restrictions on firearms. Locals may determine that there are no additional areas for regulation, but we believe local government—that which is closest to the people—is best suited to determine the security needs and employment policies for each individual community.

Though KAC opposes HB 2111, it stems from the Kansas principle of self-governance for communities. We support this principle regardless of the subject matter, and this means we support local decisions by counties on the issue of concealed carry. Please keep this in mind and oppose HB 2111.