

Kansas House of Representatives

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Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

HB 2052- Discharging a firearm inside or into a city; unlawful acts; exceptions

Dear Chairman Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, Vice Chair Sen. Jay Emler, Ranking Minority Member Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee,

Some of you may be asking yourselves why this legislation is needed. Most cities in our state currently have an ordinance against the discharging of a firearm within the city limits. This is understandable and I presume the purpose is to prevent people shooting their guns on New Year’s Eve etc. HB 2052 merely creates an official exception for the purpose of self –defense and would ensure that law abiding citizens would feel safe while under the extreme duress of having to protect themselves and their family members. Most states in America have this exception already in effect. For some unknown reason Kansas does not currently have this exception on the books. It is conceivable that Kansas citizens could be charged with a crime by someone whose ideology is anti-gun rights. Our constitution clearly provides the right to self-defense. This bill would better align Kansas with our state constitution which says that citizens have a right to bear arms for the purpose defense of self, family, home and state, for lawful hunting and recreational use, and for any other lawful purpose.

In the end, status quo is at best vague and open to interpretation so I urge you to sympathize with the citizens that want to know the law provides them with a secure layer of protection. They want to know they will not be accused of a crime because of an act of self-defense. I urge your support of HB2052.

Representative Jim Howell