

STATE OF KANSAS

SENATE

14TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KS 66612
(785) 296-7678
forrest.knox@senate.ks.gov



17120 UDALL RD.
ALTOONA, KS 66710
(785) 783-5564
senatorforrestknox@gmail.com

FORREST J. KNOX

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Testimony Supporting SB 45

March 13, 2015

Chairman Brunk,

In ~~America~~ Kansas, Government Trusts its Law-Abiding Citizens!

The 2nd Amendment is there because,

In America, Law-Abiding Citizens Do Not Trust the Government!

Senate Bill 45 allows any person who can legally possess a handgun to carry it concealed. We have always been able to carry openly in Kansas. Last year we preempted certain cities that had tried to limit this constitutional right. But, I believe it is wiser to be able to carry concealed, rather than openly.

Licensed concealed carry has now been passed in all 50 states. Kansas passed it a number of years ago. There is always the "wild, wild west" rhetoric when expanding gun rights. However, it has never occurred. On the contrary, the opposite has occurred. In America statistics show that as the number of guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens increases, crime decreases. As more guns are carried concealed, crime decreases. There are many daily instances of crime being actively stopped by the use of guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens. Often this occurs without the gun being fired. Conversely, both world history and current global events show that when only the government has guns, horrific events ensue.

Recently, the courts overturned laws restricting firearms in Washington, D.C. and in Chicago. Interestingly, an immediate decrease in crime occurred in both places.

The contrary can also be seen in statistics. In the 80's, when Chicago instituted very tight restrictions on guns, serious crime skyrocketed.

This data may only be anecdotal, direct causation may not be proved, but eventually it becomes obvious. Certainly in Kansas we have seen no wild, wild west when we passed concealed carry, when we passed the public building security bill (allowing concealed carry in unsecured public buildings), and when we preempted local units of government for open carry. It's been a non-issue, except that citizens now have the tools to defend themselves.

A major, historical strength of America is that government trusts its citizens. Our citizens, statistically, virtually always choose to do the right thing, the responsible thing. We should only criminalize actions, not items like guns and knives. Law enforcement cannot be there every time we need them, or even most times, and they have no obligation to provide for our personal defense. We must be allowed the tools to provide for our own defense. When this is allowed crime decreases.

Trust Kansans! I ask your support in passing out SB 45 favorably. Thank you for your consideration.