

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Chair, Republican Caucus
Committee Assignments
Vice-Chair, Federal & State Affairs
Commerce, Labor & Economic Development
Judiciary
Rules and Journals

Travis Couture-Lovelady
Representative, 110th District

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

I stand in strong support of SB 45. This bill is about freedom and liberty. This bill is about Kansans being able to exercise a constitutionally protected right without having to ask permission of the state government.

Concerning the questions surrounding training I do not believe that continuing the training mandate would have any effect on public safety. It would only serve as another way to force Kansans to ask permission of their government to exercise their 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Those pushing for a training requirement do so without data to back up their claims that it would make anyone a more responsible gun user. There is no statistical difference between states that require training and those that do not.

The following states issue concealed carry permits and do not have a training requirement: Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Washington. Kansas has reciprocity with all of those states allowing citizens of those states to carry in Kansas. They are already afforded the ability to exercise their right protected under the Second Amendment without a training mandate while our own citizens are not.

In fact removing the one size fits all mandated government class would free up instructors to offer true firearms proficiency training. Class time could be spent honing skills instead of going over material whose purpose is lecture on lethal use of force so as to absolve the government of its liability in granting a concealed carry permit. The best way to absolve the state of liability is to get the government out of the way and put the responsibility for proficient use of firearms and understanding of the law back on the individual where it belongs.

Open carry is already legal with no permit and no training mandate.

Americans have a long history of exercising their constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms and now is the time to remove the barrier of the government permission slip. Kansas will be a safer place. SB 45 is about personal responsibility and individual liberty. I ask that the committee please pass out SB 45 favorably.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis I. Couture-Lovelady".

Travis