

Testimony in opposition of **Senate Bill 45** given on March 13th, 2015
Provided to the Kansas House of Representatives Federal and State Affairs Committee
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Greetings Honorable Kansas House Members,

Governing bodies exist around the world because society is in a constant state of change and new laws are needed to keep pace with those changes. In 1791, when the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution was passed, the most efficient self-defense weapon available was a black powder rifle. This rifle was loaded by packing powder and a ball down the barrel and firing a single shot only to reload the same lethargic way.

Fast forward to 2015 and we have a wide array of modern guns at our disposal. My 2nd Amendment rights have not been tampered with as I enjoy the ownership of several styles of guns myself. However obvious it may be, the demographics of the United States have changed dramatically since 1791. Citizens have gone from a decision to defend their country against tyranny to defending themselves against neighborhood crime, radical extremists and ex-spouses, just to name a few.

The current training and permit to carry a concealed handgun in public that is required by Kansas law needs to remain intact. You are not being asked to take away or infringe upon any Kansans' 2nd Amendment rights by continuing to require residents to possess a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. The Kansas Personal and Family Protection Act, as it was originally passed and as it still stands today, requires an 8 hour training course set forth by the Attorney General's Office. This training is desperately needed to make all potential permit holders aware of the enormous responsibilities they are assuming by carrying a concealed handgun on their person. This training will help keep the gun carrier and all residents of the State of Kansas safer. Residents who have completed the 8 hour course of training are thankful for the eye opening experience it provides and express how much more aware they have become of the liabilities and responsibilities surrounding the carrying a concealed handgun.

Here is where laws must keep pace with the changes in society. There weren't many lawsuits filed against irresponsible gun carriers in 1791. There weren't any loaded semi-automatic pistols sitting atop grandpa's dresser for grandson to play with in 1791. The prison system didn't house many inmates for negligent use of a handgun in 1791. There wasn't a choice between practice ammunition and hollow point defensive ammunition in 1791. **In 2015, Kansas residents need to know the negative consequences they could face for poor handgun decisions. Kansans also need to learn their rights in defending themselves and others. All these needs are filled with the current required 8 hour training course designed by the Attorney General.**

To have the privilege of hunting a turkey in Kansas, one must have completed the required hunter's safety training course, purchased a Kansas hunting license, and purchased a turkey tag.

But yet, Senate Bill 45 proposes legalizing the carrying of a concealed handgun for the purposes of potentially killing another human being for self-protection without requiring ANY training or licensing whatsoever.

This is simply wrong and irresponsible.

If it is a violation of my 2nd Amendment rights to require training and a permit for me to carry a concealed handgun, then it is just as much a violation of my rights to require hunters safety training, a hunting license, and a turkey tag for me to hunt and feed my family.

For the safety of all Kansans, please keep the Attorney Generals Concealed Carry training curriculum a requirement for the privilege of carrying a concealed handgun in the State of Kansas.