

Susan G. Fowler, M.L.S., C.L.I.M., C.E.D.S.

1557 Road N • Emporia, KS 66801 • Phone: 620-342-4535 • Mobile: 620-366-1316
E-Mail: infopro@susangfowler.com • Web: susangfowler.com



Date: March 11, 2015

Federal and State Affairs Committee

Rep. Steve Brunk, Chair

Re: SB45

Position: Opposed

To the Members of the Committee:

Thirty-six years ago, I began my first career, in law enforcement communications. Although I did not carry a sidearm, my first husband, a police detective, did. He taught me how to use pistols, from 5- and 6-shot revolvers to 45 and 9mm semi-automatics. I already knew how to use shotguns and rifles, having grown up on a farm with a father and two older brothers who were hunters. I remain a gun owner today.

I think it's important that you know this about me--my background in law enforcement and my gun ownership--because my opposition to this bill stems from these two facts. I know that this bill will make my brothers and sisters in blue lives' more difficult, and more dangerous. I know that it will decrease public safety. If the presence of guns truly deterred crime and violence like the proponents of this bill will no doubt testify, the United States would not lead the world in deaths through gun violence. Background checks have been proven to dramatically reduce suicide, domestic violence homicide, and homicide of law enforcement officers by guns. To make background checks optional, as this bill does, makes our state's claim of being "pro-life" questionable.

As a practical measure, without the concealed carry license, how are law enforcement officers supposed to sort out the good guys from the bad ones? Not that the CCL is all that helpful in tense situations, but at least the citizen has had a few hours of training and presumably is somewhat less likely to pull the trigger in a panic. Take away the background check and the training, and I have to wonder, *how much are our citizens' lives worth? How many lives are considered acceptable collateral damage?*

As with many pieces of legislation in this year's session, I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words to the Corinthians, and I ask this body to carefully consider and then vote No on this bill:

23 'I have the right to do anything,' you say - but not everything is beneficial. 'I have the right to do anything' - but not everything is constructive. 24 No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. 1 Corinthians 10:23, 24 (NIV)

As a 6th-generation Kansan, a responsible gun owner, and an advocate for our men and women in law enforcement, I ask this committee to vote NO on SB45. We can, we must do better to honor the sanctity of life.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan G. Fowler". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Susan G. Fowler