

TO: House Federal and State Committee Members
RE: Testimony regarding Senate Bill 45 3/15/15

We the undersigned support the Second Amendment right of American citizens to own guns. However, we believe that all rights demand responsibility and reasonable lawful attention must be paid to that privilege.

For example:

- Voting demands that citizens be properly registered.
- Property ownership demands adherence to safety codes, proper maintenance and payment of taxes.
- Driving a vehicle demands competency skills, wearing a seat belt and holding a state-issued license.

Gun ownership, even more, demands responsibility for the safety of owners, families and the community. Evidence has shown "States with the highest rates of death and injuries by guns have the weakest gun laws . . . compared to states with stronger laws." ¹

We are opposed to SB 45 for the following reasons:

- We believe that concealed weapons carried by individuals without proper registration and training will increase the number of both purposeful and accidental deaths.
- We believe that concealed weapons carried by individuals without proper registration and training will cause a community atmosphere of distrust and fear.
- Assuming that concealed carry of guns is motivated by the need for self-defense, we submit the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence data that for each instance of 1 gun being used in self-defense 4 guns are use in accidental shootings.

In the United States, we register births, marriages, divorces, and deaths; we register cars, trucks, boats, trailers, bicycles, houses, dogs and cats— *everything but guns.*²

We, the undersigned, urge you to vote against SB 45.

Jane Carolyn Zimmerman, Topeka

Kevin Carr, member of Topeka's Against Gun Violence

Dennis Deben, member of Topeka Center for Peace and Justice

Carolyn Jitwin member of Temple Beth Shalom Social Action Committee

Debbie Stiel, rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom, Topeka, KS

1. Natalie Pompilio, "States With Weak Firearm Laws . . .," Philadelphia Daily News, September 28, 2010

2. James E. Atwood, "America and Its Guns: A Theological Exposé," Cascade Books, 2012, p. 161