

Testimony for SB45

Let me begin by apologizing for not being there in person. I meant to be there in case anyone had any questions for me in rebuttal but something work related came up. A little about me... I was stationed here in 1993 at Fort Riley served my time here in Kansas originally from Texas I met my wife and stayed here and have raised a family and continue to do so with our 2 boys. I have been a Kansas taxpayer since 1993.

I am an open carry advocate so let me say a big thank you to the lawmakers and the governor for passing the law last year that squashed all the city and county ordinances against the 2nd Amendment and let me thank you now for attempting to finish what was started.

As a former soldier and a former Law Enforcement officer in the state of Kansas I feel the government already knows everything about me. Why I need to pay the state (ccl fee) for something the 2nd Amendment gives me the right to do in the first place is beyond me.

I was actually in a store here in Manhattan and I had a lady walk up to me and thank me for carrying my pistol in the store. She told me she felt safe knowing there was someone in the store with a firearm. Usually I will call the business and ask them if it will bother them and if they say they don't allow open carry then I will do business elsewhere. It sounds petty but I can't do business with a company that doesn't believe in the US Constitution and everything that follows it.

In my opinion we have the 2nd Amendment. As American citizens it should be no question to carry open or concealed. We have that right. The founding fathers secured that for us.

The main reason SB45 needs to be passed is so Kansas can help lead the way for individual gun rights. We are on the right track as a state so let's keep going and get this passed in the quickest time and hope that other states follow suit.

In closing I hope that all the lawmakers do the right thing for Kansas and the citizens of the state and get this bill passed this year. Thank you for hearing me out and if any of you have any questions feel free to email me. Have a great day.

Robert Echols email: echrbt34@yahoo.com

Riley, Ks.

c 785-293-2529