



KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Dear Senate Committee,

February 13, 2015

My name is Carol Levers and I am the Director of Libraries for Kansas City, Kansas. I manage five public libraries in a county of over 150 thousand people. Our five libraries collectively served over 765 thousand people in-house last year. We have a robust outreach program that we use our mobile library and other means to get information and library items to the population of our community that otherwise could not receive library services.

Clearly, the library prefers to limit the presence of guns, but the library also wants to respect the law. Unfortunately, our gun laws (and their interpretation) are increasingly lacking in clarity and take insufficient heed of the need for reasonable restraint in certain places. But even mild attempts at regulation raise the ire of the pro-gun proponents.

Libraries thrive on an inviting environment. We feel that guns, particularly openly borne guns, do not belong. We will much appreciate the ban on open carry of weapons in our facilities in order to continue our inviting environment and protect library patrons of all ages, especially children and the aged.

Michael Kelly, Former Editor and Chief for Library Journal so eloquently said "We are obligated to interpret and apply the law, regardless of whether we personally like the outcome. Certainly, at a time where this country has witnessed tragic and horrific mass shootings in places of public gathering, the presence of weapons in a library where people of all ages, particularly our youth, gather is alarming and an issue of great concern."

Thank you for your time.

Carol Levers

Director of Libraries

Kansas City Kansas Public Libraries

Main Library &
Library Administration
625 Minnesota Ave
Kansas City, KS 66101
P: 913-551-3280
F: 913-279-2032

Mr. & Mrs. F.L.
Schlagle Library
4051 West Drive
Kansas City, KS 66109
P: 913-299-2384
F: 913-299-9967

South Branch
Library
3104 Strong Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66106
P: 913-722-7400
F: 913-722-7402

West Wyandotte
Library
1737 N 82nd St
Kansas City, KS 66112
P: 913-596-5800
F: 913-596-5806

Turner Community
Library
831 South 55th St
Kansas City, KS 66106
P: 913-596-1404
F: 913-596-1407



Governed by the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education