



Kansas State Rifle Association
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RE: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Senate Bill No. 153 Hearing

Dear Chairman Ostmeyer and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I represent thousands of KSRA members and Kansas gun owners as an opponent of Senate Bill Number 153. I sincerely appreciate you considering our opinion regarding this piece of legislation.

In 2013 a good faith measure was passed as an amendment to the Personal and Family Protection Act known as the Public Building Security amendment. This provision clarified that the taxpayers own and pay for public buildings and should therefore be allowed to exercise their right to carry concealed unless that public building provided adequate security to ensure that no one with a gun could possibly enter that building. Careful thought and negotiations took place during that time.

Those public entities were given four years to both adopt and install adequate security as defined in K.S.A. 75-7c20 or take down the no concealed carry signs and allow law abiding citizens to carry in those buildings. It was the clear intent of the legislative body to end those exemptions after four years.

In 2014 again the legislature expressed its clear intent that firearms are a constitutionally protected right that should be regulated only at the state level and not at the local level. Yet this bill seeks to ignore the intent of both the 2013 and 2014 legislative decisions and violate the trust of an agreement reached by all parties at that time regarding the adequate security provision and the preemption of local control by singling out public libraries and exempting them from the provisions of the current law.

The KSRA has been contacted by a significant number of gun owners in Kansas who are extremely distressed that the legislative body would even consider making exceptions to the existing exemption provisions. I would like to remind you that in 2010 a Second Amendment constitutional amendment was voted on by Kansans for adoption to Article IV of the Kansas constitution clearly giving Kansans the right to bear arms for their protection. A record setting 89% of the voters expressed their opinion by voting YES to adopt that amendment. Nowhere in that amendment does it give exclusions for public libraries or any other public building funded by taxpayers.

It is our strong belief that to change that provision now is a violation of the good faith efforts put forth by all concerned and that there is no reasonable position for making any change to the existing law. We strongly object to making any exception to the existing exemption provisions. This is clearly not the direction which the large majority of Kansans expect the legislature to move in regarding the right to bear arms.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for considering our position in this most important matter. We respectfully urge that you vote NO on SB 153.

Respectfully Submitted,

President and Registered Lobbyist

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