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Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Testimony Supporting SB 65

February 19, 2015

Chairman Ostmeyer,

The simple logic of the publicly-owned building security act, passed two years ago, is that if a public entity is not willing to provide security for the occupants of a building, then the right of the occupants to provide for their own security should not be denied. Following the passage of this act, the vast majority of state, county, and city buildings have simply taken down the signs prohibiting licensed concealed carry in those buildings. Licensed Kansas citizens now carry firearms in these buildings, whether members of the public who have business in the buildings or public employees who work in the buildings. No one knows who is carrying a firearm and no one is concerned, except criminals. There have been no deadly incidents, or any incidents at all that I have heard of. As a matter of fact, it has been a nonissue.

Now we have the situation of licensed public employees being able to carry a concealed firearm on the job inside the buildings, but not when they are working outside the building. The employees have the need, and the right, to protect themselves outside as well as in. Senate Bill 65 gives public employees the right to possess the tools of self-protection on the job whether inside or outside.

Some have questioned, in the bill, the deletion of lines 21 -26 on page one. So I offer this clarification. This language is deleted because it essentially duplicates lines 9 – 13, especially so when the words “city, county or political subdivision” are removed, which is the point of the bill. Lines 15 – 20 make clear the continued authority of private employers to restrict concealed carry in any way they choose.

I ask that you pass SB 65 out favorably and trust our public employees to have the tools they need to defend themselves and others. Thank you for your consideration.