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Written Statement to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
City of Overland Park, KS
SB 65 – Carrying of Concealed Handguns by Public Employees While Engaged in Employment
February 19, 2015

Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, the City of Overland Park provides this statement to address concerns with the proposed SB 65.

First, it is important to note that the City of Overland Park supports current law and the current personal and family protection act.

The City of Overland Park takes seriously the safety and protection of its employees while at their place of employment or while traveling on city business in a city vehicle. We have established training, adopted policies and implemented physical measures to ensure this safety as our business requires us to be engaged with the public. These policies have served us well for over fifty years.

We are concerned that allowing employees to carry concealed handguns (other than law enforcement officers or others directly authorized to carry and use a weapon in the course of their routine business) will create new issues and new policies whose second and third order effects are unknown and untested at this time. It will create a whole new work environment for our employees and for those with whom we interact.

For example, one unintended consequence appears to be that this new law creates potential conflicts with our presiding municipal judge's judicial authority to establish security measures within our court facilities.

Finally, we strongly believe that personnel policies affecting the safety of employees are best developed and managed by the employer who fully understands the nature and conduct of its employees' business.

Thank-you for your consideration.