

Testimony in **support** of HB2468 – March 22, 2016

Mr. Chair and esteemed members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee,

Last year the superintendent at USD 260 pushed for the removal of a long standing BB gun club that has used school facilities for over 30 years without any incident. This issue was then covered in the local media. Members on the local school board fought to keep the club around, but ultimately lost in a four against three vote. I continued to hear about this issue as I talked with constituents at their doors in the Fall. The more I talked with people the more I realized that something had to be done to help this sporting community.

This bill will allow groups to use school facilities to practice and hold tournaments for bb gun, air rifle, and air pistol. A large space is needed to facilitate these large tournaments. I had the privilege to see a tournament in Sedgwick County in the middle of January. This tournament was held at the 4-H extension building in Sedgwick County. While at this event I saw young boys and girls of all ages shooting at targets with their parents or on their own. Everyone was very well trained on how to be safe with their guns. There was an instructor on the line at all times giving commands to make sure that everyone was safe. There was a backdrop that stopped any bb's from hitting the walls to prevent damage. Sedgwick County 4H is large enough to have its own building, but other counties that are smaller are not as fortunate. This bill will give more opportunities to kids to participate in more tournaments around Kansas.

I wish to keep these programs around that help teach kids gun safety, marksmanship skills, and sportsmanship. Like many other sports this sport has the ability to lead a boy or girl towards national competitions, or even college scholarships. Please join me in supporting HB2468.

Sincerely,
Representative Blake Carpenter