



American Federation of Teachers – Kansas

HB 2081—IN OPPOSITION

Before the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Submitted by: Lisa Ochs

President, American Federation of Teachers--Kansas

February 2, 2017

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa Ochs, and I am President of the American Federation of Teachers—Kansas (AFT Kansas). AFT Kansas does not just represent teachers. We are a state federation, and our member locals include state employees, municipal employees, university employees, nurses, and teachers. On behalf of those employees, I ask you to oppose HB 2081.

The employees we represent are varied, but one thing they have in common is the need for a safe workplace. In fact, many of our represented employees are required to attend regular training about how to maintain workplace safety. Both employer and employees work together to insure safety protocols are in place and are followed. This is reinforced through our current statutory system. Laws provide incentive for employers to maintain workplace safety and remedies through the workers compensation system for employees who are injured on the job.

HB 2081 undermines this system. It removes the employer's ability to provide policies to insure handgun safety on the job and removes remedies for employees who may be injured by a concealed handgun another employee brings to work. Employees should not have to worry about being injured at work by someone who is carelessly handling a handgun. Further, employees should not have to worry about how they will pay their bills and feed their families if injured at work by someone who carelessly handles a handgun.

Please support safe, healthy workplaces and employees and oppose HB 2081.