

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 8, 2017
TO: House Federal and State Affairs Committee
FROM: Travis Couture-Lovelady, State Liaison
RE: House Bill 2220

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to address you this morning on an issue important to NRA members and gun owners throughout Kansas. I am here today on behalf of the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action to express our support for HB 2220.

HB 2220 would preempt the regulation of manner of carry on college campuses. It would set statewide boundaries and a uniform standard for rules and regulations adopted by our universities concerning the right to lawfully carry on campus.

While the policies adopted by the Kansas Board of Regents have not been unreasonable, the same cannot be said of those proposed at the university level. Since our campus carry statute became effective, individual universities have been developing plans in preparation for the end of their exemption on July 1 of this year.

We have seen a disturbing trend among administrators at several universities toward further-limiting the way a person may exercise his or her constitutional right to carry on campus. The NRA-ILA does not support these unreasonable requirements. Illogical restrictions like keeping the gun unloaded only put the law-abiding student, professor, or visitor at an additional disadvantage compared to an attacker bent on harm. intended to create confusion and

Over recent months, we have also seen drastically different standards emerge for each of our Kansas universities. Depending on the institution, individuals are treated differently if they choosing to carry a lawful firearm in a purse or briefcase. One university has even dictated that any firearm must physically be on an individual's person, without exception – a tremendous burden on anyone who has difficulty concealing a firearm on their person, or who may prefer to carry in some other way for security or comfort.

Unreasonable and ill-informed policies do not promote the legislative intent behind our public building security statutes. These policies put the Kansas Board of Regents in the difficult position of having to clarify legislative intent for the universities, or allowing individual institutions to implement their own policies at the expense of clarity. The self-defense rights of some of our most responsible young people is not something we can sacrifice.

For these issues and more, we believe a legislative solution is required.

On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I respectfully request your support of HB 2220. Thank you for your consideration.