

Statement against HB 2220

HB 2220 is not only a bad bill. It is a fascist bill. Faculty, students, and staff of Kansas Universities are overwhelmingly against campus carry. And so, has the House Committee on State and Federal Affairs advanced HB 2074 — which would continue the exemption for universities and hospitals — so that the full house may vote on it? No. Instead, it is now considering HB 2220, which *forces guns onto Kansas university campuses against the will of those who study and work there.*

My question for this committee is this: Do you believe in democracy or don't you? Why not let the House vote on HB 2074? Why advance this dangerous bill (HB 2220) instead? There is no evidence that weaponizing campuses makes them safer. In fact, quite the opposite is true — *as many have told you before.* In a state where guns are not regulated (where owners of firearms do not even need to learn how to use their weapons), inviting them onto college campuses is reckless in the extreme. You increase the risk of death by accident, and by intent — the likelihood of a successful suicide increases when firearms are accessible. And you do *not* prevent mass shootings. The “good guy with a gun stops a bad guy with a gun” is an alternative fact promoted by the NRA. Think about it: in an active shooter situation, an untrained but armed person will magically be transformed into a superhero? Really? (Hint: NO, guns do not turn untrained civilians into superheros.) If the military does not allow guns in its classes (except for weapons-training classes) or in its barracks, why should colleges? The military are trained professionals. Faculty, students, and staff on college campuses are not — by design, since Kansas refuses to adopt even the modest provision that gun-owners learn how to use their guns.

Though I offer these thoughts as a private citizen, my opinions are informed by my job as professor at Kansas State University. I have enjoyed my decade-and-a-half living and working

in Kansas. However, now that the legislature insists on endangering my life, and the lives of my colleagues and students, I find that I enjoy it much less. Indeed, in addition to seeking another job, I find that I have to spend valuable time trying to convince my state legislature not to kill us all. So. Oppose HB 2220. Bring HB 2074 up for a full vote.

Thank you for your time and for your attention to this urgent matter.

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