



FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

David M. Schauner, KNEA General Counsel

Testimony on House Bill 2220

March 9, 2017

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Schauner and I am the General Counsel for the Kansas NEA. I am here today on behalf of our 20,000 members in strong opposition of HB 2220.

HB 2220 is yet the latest attempt to endanger students and employees at Kansas Post-Secondary schools. The bill creates a vacuum at these institutions in the areas related to the ability of anyone to carry a concealed weapon on their person.

HB 2074 would have provided these institutions relief from the dangers imposed by K.S.A. 75-7c20, which permits anyone to carry a concealed weapon on the campus of any post-secondary school in Kansas. That bill was defeated in this committee on a split vote.

Now this committee is asked to approve the further restrictions on these institutions saying that

“[N]o . . . postsecondary educational institution shall take any administrative action, governing the ownership, possession, storage, carrying, manner of carrying or transporting of concealed handguns or ammunition, or any component or combination thereof.”

This bill, in coordination with K.S.A. 75-7c20, recreates the gun mentality of frontier 19th century America. No rules and no restrictions on guns. Anyone can conceal and carry a deadly weapon on the campus of any post-secondary institution in Kansas and not only can the institution not prevent it, the institution cannot impose any rules related to the carrying of the weapon.

The bill should be titled, “No rules for Post-Secondary Campus Concealed Carry.”

However, even Dodge City, Kansas, law enforcement saw the need for restricting the carrying of deadly weapons as least as early as 1878. Common sense honed by experience supported the creation of rules and reasonable standards for the carrying of deadly weapons. This was true even in the face of a real need for firearms for personal protection in an unsettled territory.

Please see the attached photo taken in Dodge City, Kansas, in 1878. Guns were to be checked at the sheriff’s office. Wichita had a similar law in 1873.

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If passed HB2220 would ignore the wisdom of the Kansas frontier towns and further restrict the ability of post-secondary governance to protect their students and employees.

KNEA stands in strong opposition to HB 2220.