

March 6, 2017

Ruth Simonton

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Dear Chairman John Barker and the members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

I OPPOSE House Bill HB2220

My son is a sophomore at Kansas State University. He lives in a dorm on campus, and he is majoring in Electrical Engineering. This is already a high-stress major even without the added stress of handguns legally being in the dorms or in classrooms. I want him to know that he is living in a safe environment and that KSU is doing everything in their power to keep it safe. If House Bill HB2220 is passed, it will strip the university's ability to make policies regarding handguns, which will in turn affect the ability of the university to keep its students and faculty safe.

My daughter is a junior in our home school high school. She is taking dual credit classes at Johnson County Community College. It is extremely important to me that she feel safe anywhere on campus. JCCC has an excellent safety record, and I feel comfortable letting her drive to campus and attend classes. If House Bill HB2220 is passed, removing JCCC's ability to make policies regarding handguns, I will not only be concerned for her safety, I will be concerned for the safety of her professors and the other students on campus.

I am an alumna of both Washburn University and Kansas State University. I remember the long hours of studying, the lack of sleep, the high stress of testing, and the drunk roommates. I also remember feeling safe on both of these college campuses. I would not have felt safe knowing handguns were being legally carried in my classes and kept in my sorority house. It would have added extra stress to an already stressful time in my life.

As a parent, I feel it is imperative that colleges are able to make common sense regulations regarding handguns on campus, so my children feel safe. As the friend of several college and junior college professors, I feel it is necessary for them to have a safe place to conduct their classes, without the added worry of a disgruntled student legally possessing a handgun.

I am for common sense gun laws, but no parent or professor that I know supports House Bill HB2220. It does not promote safety or common sense.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ruth Simonton