

February 8, 2018

RE: Opposition Testimony against HB 2042

Dear Chairman Estes and Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I am writing to urge you to vote yes for the safety and well-being of Kansans and people who come to Kansas for their educations, by voting **no on HB 2042**. I work as a professor at University of Kansas, and I can attest that the reality of concealed carry on our campus has made life more stressful for me and for the students and co-workers with whom I interact on a daily basis. If there was any consolation regarding the changes that came last July, it was that the age limit of 21 for concealed carry ruled out most of the students, and particularly the students at the most vulnerable ages 18-20.

HB 2042 is not a small change to a highly unpopular shift in safety policy at my workplace. It is drastic. It would lower the age of those who can carry concealed weapons to 18. It would lower morale and heighten risk by welcoming even less restrictive rules from out-state residents whose home states have lower standards for safety. Some people seem to believe that HB 2042 balances these concerns by adding the restriction of the concealed carry permit for 18-20 year-olds. However, the permit is very easy to obtain and doesn't require much in the way of training in the safe handling of firearms or hands-on experience. My understanding is that the Kansas permit requires an 8 hour lecture course and a minimum of 25 rounds of shooting practice with a lenient margin of error and unlimited do-overs. If the student fails at the exam or the shooting practice, they can keep on re-doing it until they pass.

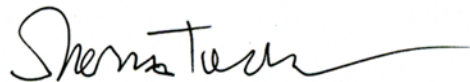
You, who represent the people of the State of Kansas, can choose to set high standards for safety, learning, and general well-being within our institutions—or you can choose to lower them. You can choose to value the quality of our lives, or hold us low esteem, as you make decisions that affect our daily safety standards. Wouldn't it be of more benefit to all those in our state, to do everything possible to hold high standards for gun safety? Legislators, your own workplace is subject to high stress, high stakes, and high emotions—yet you protect yourselves with gun safety restrictions. Hot topics can be discussed, opposing viewpoints aired, life-altering decisions can be made—but carrying a concealed weapon into the courthouse is prohibited. We are your co-workers. Please think of those who teach, and heal, and provide free information in public libraries across the state, and remember that we also serve Kansans in high stress, high stakes situations.

In places of higher education, 18-20 year-olds are vulnerable; they worry, they deal with new situations, and lots of uncertainty—first loves, first break-ups, tests that do not have unlimited do-overs, money problems, underemployment, trying to be independent and sometimes failing, worrying about grades, feeling threatened by encountering opinions, identities, and situations that they didn't experience in high school. They get frustrated, depressed, sleep-deprived, many get drunk for the first time. They don't need guns in backpacks, and they do not need the added stress of worrying about who might have guns in their backpacks. I respect the

rights of all students—those who like guns, and those who don't; those who have grown up around guns and have never had a bad experience, and those who have lost loved ones to gun violence and accidents; veterans with PTSD and international students who are pay far higher tuition to come to KU than anyone, and who are terrified when they learn of our existing campus carry policy. Students with all of these many relationships to guns have shared their feelings with me—and I hold them all in high esteem. I believe that they all deserve high standards for gun safety; none benefits from lowering our state standards for gun safety, or from a climate in which to desire a gun-free workplace or school or public library is to oppose the 2nd amendment or enter a partisan political debate.

The NRA is pushing us to lower our standards for gun safety. The NRA benefits from such a thing. The rest of us do not. You represent Kansans, not the NRA. I urge you to demonstrate your commitment to the safety and well-being of all Kansans by voting no on HB 2042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherrie Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sherrie Tucker
925 Holiday Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049