

January 21, 2022

I am a PROPONENT of HB 2133

Chairman Owens and the House Corrections & Juvenile Justice Committee Members

I'd like to focus on two incontrovertible facts in my brief written testimony in favor of HB 2133

The first fact is Kansans have a rich tradition of self-sufficiency, and self-protection. By this I mean that many Kansans take proactive steps to keep themselves and their families safe. One way this is achieved is that many Kansans are proud gun owners and know how to utilize a gun in self-preservation. Being prepared for any situation that threatens their family or property, which is their inalienable right to do. And in fact, based on the SCOTUS ruling which determined that police are NOT obligated to answer emergency calls, self-protection is the only option that can be counted on fully.

The second incontrovertible fact I'd like to draw attention to is that humans are fallible. All humans are capable of error, and in the area of focus for this HB 2133, errors are not only possible but on record, to an alarming degree. "No knock" warrants are frequently served in the dead of night which further increases the likelihood of warrants being served on the incorrect house due to pitch black conditions which make it difficult to read and confirm addresses. And even one "No knock" warrant served incorrectly is one too many. A "No knock" warrant served incorrectly is equivalent to breaking and entering by armed intruders on innocent people.

When a "No knock" warrant is served this would appear as a stealth group of armed aggressors, who breach a home by force, using destruction of property to gain entry, with no notice.

This is an incredibly dangerous situation for all parties involved. To the person being served this would easily appear as an armed home invasion, frequently resulting in the person being served, being disoriented and fearing for their life, feeling the need to protect themselves and their families from the imminent threat aggressively gaining access to their home, family, and property.

For the officers charged with serving this most dangerous of warrants, who now see their potential warrantee armed and ready to protect themselves, this quickly creates a confusing and dangerous situation where both sides feel they need to protect themselves from the threat.

The typical reasoning for a "No knock" warrant being served, is that the police feel it will be safer to catch a suspected criminal unaware and bring them in without issue and potentially avoid a standoff situation. I contend that "No knock" warrants are more dangerous than a standard warrant due to the disorienting nature of the breaking and entering style of entry.

My testimony will miss the other glaring facts of this debate which include the second and third hand effects to name a few, are not limited to increased chances of family pets feeling threatened and acting aggressively towards the "intruders", and then being dispatched for that reason. Or the fact that "No knock" warrants are statistically more violent and dangerous. Or the fact they are unquestionably unconstitutional.

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony, and for reviewing this most barbaric methods of warrant delivery on the books in our state.

In Liberty,

Sara Isenhour
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