

My name is Colleen Cunningham, and I am writing today in opposition to HB2058.

In order to better understand this bill, I did some research on firearm laws in other states and what I found was not supportive of Kansas allowing concealed carry reciprocity. In sum, 14 states issue concealed carry permits to teenagers. Of those, 10 allow certain convicted stalkers to obtain permits, 9 fail to require live-fire handgun safety training, and 6 issue permits to many violent misdemeanor offenders. I am extremely uncomfortable with the notion that, if this bill passes, these gun-owners could come to Kansas and carry a concealed weapon, in the same spaces where I shop for groceries, and where I take my kids to other public spaces

Here in Kansas, we have laws which prevent teenagers, whose prefrontal cortices (the part of the brain responsible for problem solving and long-term planning) are not fully developed, from carrying a concealed weapon. We have established laws that people who have been convicted of domestic violence have limited access to firearms. These laws exist to help keep our families and our communities safe from gun violence, particularly from people we know are less likely to practice firearm safety.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter, and again would ask that you oppose HB 2058.