

HB 2058

I am Carl Reed from Manhattan. I am writing to oppose HB2058 as a former employee and long-time supporter of Kansas State University. K-State has always had a policy that prohibited students from keeping weapons on campus. The policy was written, as were similar policies at all major U.S. institutions of higher learning, by the founders of the institution. That the behavior of educated citizens is non-violent is a basic premise of higher education, and non-violent citizenship cannot be modeled while students or others are allowed to behave like vigilantes.

The university was forced to change the policy and long-held academic tradition because of reckless, vigilante legislation passed by the Kansas legislature in 2013 and 2015. HB2058 would further damage K-State's ability to protect its students and faculty by forcing it to accept gun-carrying eighteen-year-olds from states that allowed them to carry hidden, loaded weapons. It would further erode the right of academic institutions to make policy, and further push vigilante mentality into Kansas institutions.