

January 27, 2021

My name is Sophia Steffensmeier and I'm currently a sophomore at Manhattan High School, as well as a member of Students Demand Action. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony about HB 2059.

I am strongly opposed to HB 2059 because Kansas already has some of the weakest gun laws in the country while gun-related violence and deaths are on the rise. Just as Kansas has minimum ages for driving and drinking alcohol to help prevent irresponsible injuries and deaths, so should be the case for carrying concealed handguns. According to an Everytown for Gun Safety analysis, 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds commit gun homicides at a rate nearly four times higher than adults 21 and older. This is evidence that we need to be strengthening our minimum age laws for guns, not weakening them.

HB 2059 does not match the values of protecting Kansas residents and youth. At a time when guns are too often used for violence and intimidation, more sensible gun laws are needed and the age to carry hidden and loaded handguns in public should certainly not be lowered. Again, I urge you to reject HB 2059.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sophia Steffensmeier

Students Demand Action Member  
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