

Kansas House of Representatives

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Representative Jim Howell 81st District

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House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

HB 2033 Knives.

Dear Chairman Siegfried and committee members,

I will start with a little background information to explain why this important legislation needs to go forward.

In 2008, a close friend of mine was arrested for accidentally violating the knife city ordinance where he lived. My friend, a deacon, Sunday school teacher, former missionary, private business owner, and one known in his neighborhood for his compassion and help to others was arrested due to the complexity in our Kansas laws in regards to what is legal for owning and purchasing knives. Although there was legislation in 2010 authorizing the specific type of knife my friend was carrying that day, we are still in need of this law, HB2033, to make clear to cities that they cannot pass city ordinances that aren't under the umbrella of state statute.

In the end, status quo is broken so I urge you to sympathize with the citizens that want to know the law across the state and confidently possess a knife. They want to know they will not be accused of a crime simply because of the patchwork of regulations related to knives. I urge your support of HB2033.

Representative Jim Howell