



Kansas State Rifle Association
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RE: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
House Bill No. 2052 Hearing

Dear Chairman Siegfried and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia Stoneking and I am the President and Registered Lobbyist for The Kansas State Rifle Association. I represent over 8000 KSRA members, 48,000 NRA members in Kansas, multiple gun clubs sporting thousands of members as well as nearly 900 Kansas gun dealers. I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 2052.

HB 2052 would protect law abiding firearms owners from prosecution for using a firearm in justifiable self defense regardless of local ordinances that prohibit the discharge of a firearm within their jurisdiction. This important piece of legislation also protects lawfully taking wildlife in the act of hunting, shooting at a firing range or protecting oneself from an animal attack where the victim reasonably believes they must use force to prevent their death or great bodily harm.

While the law in Kansas is clear that if a citizen reasonably believes they are in imminent danger of loss of life or sustaining great bodily harm they may use the force they reasonably believe is necessary to defend themselves, it does not provide protection from being prosecuted by individual jurisdictions that have ordinances prohibiting such an action.

We believe that we must protect our citizens from being caught in a legal quagmire such as this and that they should be able to make decisions about their personal safety without the concern that they may be prosecuted for committing a lawful act in an unlawful manner. The lawful act being justified self defense and the unlawful manner being a violation of a local ordinance. This is a serious conflict within our law that must be clarified and dealt with.

This conundrum is not unlike entrapment. We believe that state law in this regard should be the prevailing law rather than a patchwork quilt of local ordinances to be concerned with that would cause unjust prosecution and put law abiding citizens in a position to have to pay fines, legal fees or suffer jail sentences for defending themselves lawfully under Kansas Statute.

KSRA is dedicated to encouraging safe and responsible use of firearms and we believe that statistics show that law abiding citizens wish to remain so but are at risk unless we provide this protection for them.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for considering our position in this most important matter. We respectfully urge that you protect Kansas firearms owners by voting YES in support of HB 2052. Please recommend this bill for passage and send it to the floor of the House for a debate and vote.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our position on this most important matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Stoneking, President
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