

To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: Richard Ranzau, Sedgwick County Commissioner

Date: February 21, 2013

Re: **HB2055**

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Chairman Siegfried and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today in **SUPPORT of HB2055**. Sedgwick County supports state legislation that permits concealed carry in as many local and state governmental facilities as possible.

Not only does the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution protect the individual right to keep and bear arms, but the Kansas Constitution does as well:

**Kansas Bill of Rights**

*Section 4 – Individual Right to bear arms; A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and state, for lawful hunting and recreational use, and for any other lawful purpose;*

All governmental entities have a duty to respect and protect the individual right to keep and bear arms. Unfortunately, many elected officials use their position to curtail or limit the rights of the citizens they represent. Some even use home rule or local control as a justification for their actions. But let's be very clear, home rule does not include the authority to limit the rights of the people. It is incumbent upon the Kansas legislature to ensure that no municipality infringes upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

On August 31, 2011 the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution permitting conceal carry in 52 of 91 facilities. We heard many of the same arguments that were made when conceal carry legislation was first passed. You will hear them again today. Many will rationalize their desire to infringe upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms for defense of self and family. Sadly, most of the people making these arguments have taken oaths to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Kansas Constitution. Do not allow yourselves to be misled.

History has shown these concerns and arguments to be unfounded. They are nothing but excuses and rationalizations. Conceal carry permit holders are law abiding citizens regardless of where they are. They do not suddenly become incompetent or incapable of safely exercising their right to keep and bear arms simply because they step foot into a public space.

We support a uniform set of rules for state and municipal facilities that protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms, to include conceal carry. Please support HB2055.

## **Sedgwick County Legislative Agenda**

***C13 - Support for Conceal Carry in State and Local Buildings.*** Sedgwick County supports state legislation that creates a uniform set of rules for the state instead of a variety of laws from one location to another location. Conceal carry should be allowed in as many local government facilities as possible as well as state government buildings.

### **Sedgwick County Resolution**

On August 31, 2011 the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution permitting conceal carry in 52 of 91 facilities. Some of the facilities now open to conceal carry are listed below:

1. All county fire stations
2. All EMS stations
3. EMS administration building
4. Public Safety (911) building
5. Sheriff Squad Room
6. Sheriff Offender Registration Unit
7. Sheriff Training Academy
8. Joint Firearms Training Facility (Sheriff Department and Wichita Police Department)
9. Historic County Courthouse

### **Suggested Readings**

Connecticut Law Review: Pretend "Gun-Free" School Zones: A Deadly Legal Fiction  
<http://davekopel.org/2A/LawRev/Kopel-School-Zones.pdf>