

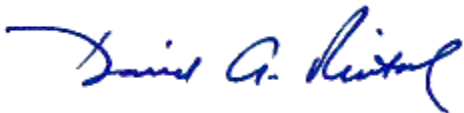
March 7, 2017

Chairman Barker and members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee

I am writing in opposition to HB2220, which would take away local control from university officials with regard to regulating firearms on our campuses. I am a native Kansan, educated K-12 in Garden City KS and with a BA in Biology from KU. After earning a doctoral degree in Biology from Stanford University and postdoctoral training at Washington University Medical School, I returned to Kansas. I have taught at KSU, my dad's alma mater, since 1981. I am writing on my own behalf, not as a representative of Kansas State University, but as an experienced college educator and citizen.

During that time, I have taught and mentored many undergraduates, served as a department head, and as president of the KSU Faculty Senate for a term. I have served on the Transfer and Articulation committee, which oversees transfer of credits for many courses within the Kansas Regents institutions. I have seen first-hand how universities function, and how different universities within the Kansas Regents system indeed do have significant differences in culture, mission, and outcomes. It is frankly absurd to use a one-size-fits-all approach for these varied campuses, and HB2220 is just exactly that sort of approach. Our educational mission is challenging, and recent budget cuts, callbacks, and crumbling buildings, have lowered morale here and across the Regents system. Adding additional restrictions on our administration will hurt morale even more. Our universities are among the most powerful engines of economic development in the state, and we need them to perform at a high level at this critical juncture in the state's history. Please respect the ability and experiences of our university administrators to govern their institutions in the manner that best fits their faculty, students, and staff. If less government is the best government, there is no solid argument in favor of HB2220.

Please spend your time on ways to help the state's universities perform their core mission, educating the future citizens of Kansas and the world. Please reject HB2220.



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