



**Richard Newby**  
*Sheriff*

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**Nick Reed**  
*Undersheriff*

**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**In Support of HB2523**

March 13, 2018

Chairman Wilborn and Committee Members,

My name is Nick Reed and I am currently the Undersheriff of Chautauqua County. In 1997, when I was 18 years old I was charged with minor in consumption of alcohol by then Sheriff of Chautauqua County, Frank Green. Admittedly I was in the wrong and pleaded guilty and paid my fine. Seven years later in 2004 I was hired by Sheriff Frank Green as a deputy for Chautauqua County. I worked in that capacity until late 2006 when I took a job with the Coffeyville Police Department. While at Coffeyville in addition to my patrol duties I was on the SOT (special operations Team), street crimes unit, and I was a firearms instructor.

In 2009, Perry Russell took over as Sheriff of Chautauqua County and asked me to be his Undersheriff which I accepted. In 2014 Sheriff Russell decided to retire and I was preparing to take over as interim Sheriff and hopefully be appointed Sheriff. Unfortunately, due to the current legislation I found out that was impossible. I would not be able to serve as a Sheriff in Kansas due to the minor in consumption charge in 1997.

Richard Newby, who was Chief Deputy at the time, was appointed Sheriff to finish out Russell's term and was elected Sheriff in 2016. After Newby was appointed he asked me to stay on as his Undersheriff and I am currently still in this position.

I have been the Undersheriff of Chautauqua County since 2009 serving under two different Sheriffs. In that capacity I have been our Investigator, Firearms Instructor and Armorer. I have managed hiring, dismissals, budgets, provided training, as well as supervised patrol, dispatch, and the jail. I have also testified as an expert witness in firearms and NFA (National Firearms Act) laws.

I have no desire to run for Sheriff anytime soon. I enjoy being the Undersheriff of Chautauqua County but I am unable to completely fulfill my duties. God forbid if something tragic would happen to the Sheriff I would not be able to keep the continuity of the Sheriff's Office and step in as Sheriff due to the current law.

I believe in law enforcement being held to a higher standard but I don't believe a minor alcohol violation twenty plus years ago should preclude me or anyone else from having the honor to serve as a Sheriff in the state of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Nick Reed**  
Undersheriff, Chautauqua County Kansas