

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

My name is Lene Brooke. I am a parent, a grandparent, a lifelong Kansan, and a gun violence prevention advocate.

I oppose HB 2058.

It is a dangerous piece of legislation that would further roll back Kansas's gun laws by forcing the state to recognize out of state permits even for those who are ineligible for Kansas permits. 14 states issue concealed carry permits to teenagers, who are not eligible to carry concealed handguns in public under Kansas law. Of those states, 10 allow certain convicted stalkers to obtain permits; 9 fail to require live-fire handgun safety training; and 6 issue permits to many violent misdemeanor offenders.

There has been much debate about the issue of forcing colleges in Kansas to allow hidden, loaded firearms in their buildings. This committee heard from students, faculty, administrators, and campus law enforcement who all opposed the guns on campus law that ultimately went into effect July 1, 2017, saying that the law would not make campuses safer and would add significant financial strain to the universities. Both of those things have held true.

I'm disappointed that this committee has again chosen to take up legislation that would further aggravate an already challenging issue for our college communities and our communities in general by allowing 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds from certain states (our neighbor, Missouri, issues concealed carry permits to 19 and 20-year-olds) and states that issue permits to some convicted stalkers and people with no safety training to carry hidden, loaded firearms on campuses and other public places. Research shows that 18 to 20-year-olds are nearly four times more likely to commit gun homicides than adults over the age of 20.

I urge the Committee to put the safety of their constituents first and reject HB 2058. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lene Brooke
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