

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

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

I oppose HB 2059.

Under current Kansas law, 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds cannot legally carry hidden, loaded handguns in public. But this dangerous legislation would allow teenagers to obtain permits to carry concealed handguns throughout the state.

I'm saddened that this committee has chosen to take up legislation that would further aggravate an already challenging situation for our colleges and our communities by allowing 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds to carry hidden, loaded firearms on campuses and in other public places.

How can individuals in this age range be relied upon to show good judgement in the carrying and use of a loaded firearm – a lethal weapon – if they cannot be trusted to drink a beer? 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 and Kansas communities first and reject HB 2059. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lene Brooke  
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