

# HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER: HB2059

Support \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose X Neutral \_\_\_\_\_

Testimony Will Be: Oral \_\_\_\_\_ Written Only X

For Meeting on January 27, 2021

Testimony By: Christine & David Schneider

On Behalf Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative Contact:

Email Address:

Telephone:

January 25, 2021

Dear Kansas Lawmakers,

We are writing to provide testimony against HB2059, the proposed bill that would allow teenagers to carry hidden, loaded guns in public in Kansas.

Studies show that the human brain is not fully developed until the age of twenty-five. While we treat them as adults in our society when they turn eighteen, science shows that teenagers are just not equipped yet to make split-second life and death decisions while in possession of a gun. Impulse control and sensation-seeking are both behaviors that teenagers are still learning to navigate, and adding a gun to the mix is extremely dangerous.

“The development and maturation of the prefrontal cortex occurs primarily during adolescence and is fully accomplished at the age of 25 years. The development of the prefrontal cortex is very important for complex behavioral performance, as this region of the brain helps accomplish executive brain functions.”<sup>1</sup>

As parents of a teenager who is currently attending a public university in Kansas, we, like most parents, want our child to have a learning environment that’s as free from risk as possible. By lowering the age from 21 to 18 to allow younger students to carry guns, we are increasing the risk of danger to our kids.

Please, do not support HB2059. Thank you.

Christine & David Schneider  
Lawrence, Kansas

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#### Reference

1. Arain M, Haque M, Johal L, Mathur P, Nel W, Rais A, Sandhu R, Sharma S. Maturation of the adolescent brain. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat*. 2013;9:449–461. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3621648/>