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January 23, 2013

RE: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Senate Bill No. 21 Hearing

Dear Chairman Ostmeyer and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony to you as an proponent of SB 21, An Act concerning firearms; relating to definition of firearm; criminal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; expungement; relating to the personal and family protection act; amending K.S.A. 2012 Supp.12-16,124, 21-5111, 21-6304, 21-6614, 75-7c03, 75-7c04, 75-7c05, 75-7c07 and 75-7c25 and repealing the existing sections.

I am the President and Registered Lobbyist for the Kansas State Rifle Association, the NRA State Affiliate. I apologize for being unable to attend this hearing as I will be in Manhattan attending the funeral of Dr. Bob Robel, Chairman of the KSRA Foundation.

Most of the provisions in this bill are cleanup needed by the Attorney General's office. However, there are two provisions which I'd like to weigh in on. I'm sure a representative of the Attorney General's office will weigh in on the provisions they have requested.

The most substantial change in this Right-to-Carry reform would allow for universal recognition of non-resident carry permits. In other words, any law abiding concealed carry licensee from out of state would be allowed to carry a concealed handgun in Kansas while visiting or passing through our state. This change not only benefits out of state licensees but will likely encourage other states to recognize the Kansas concealed carry permit. At this time there are folks who actually avoid Kansas when traveling because they cannot exercise their right to carry in our state. This equates to lost revenue for Kansas.

The second provision is one which will benefit new Kansas residents who possess a valid concealed carry permit from their previous state of residence. They would be able to instantly apply for a Kansas permit and would be granted a temporary permit while their application is considered and processed. The Attorney General would also be able to create a list of states which meet or exceed Kansas' requirements that would automatically qualify for recognition for the issuance of a Kansas permit. There is no valid reason I can think of to prevent someone from exercising their right to carry when they have been lawfully doing so prior to moving to our state.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for considering our position in this most important matter. We respectfully urge that you vote YES on SB 21 and recommend this bill for passage.

Respectfully Submitted,

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