

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS



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Testimony before the
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
on

SB 186 – Allowing concealed handguns into state or municipal buildings unless adequate security measures are present

by
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Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **SB 186**. It is our understanding that the bill would allow licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun into state or municipal buildings unless the building has adequate security measures to ensure that no weapons are permitted. The definition of municipality would include school districts.

This bill would require a district to purchase electronic equipment as well as hire security personnel to monitor public entrances if it wanted to prohibit and/or limit individuals carrying concealed weapons into the school. This mandate would come at a time when school districts are already under severe budgetary constraints and there is continued pressure for more funding to be used in the classroom.

Further, under current Kansas law, school boards already have the authority to allow licensed individuals to carry concealed weapons into schools. K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 21-6301(a)(11) states that criminal use of a weapon includes knowingly possessing a firearm in or on any school property or grounds, unless the person is a law enforcement officer. However, there are a number of exceptions to that law, including any possession of a firearm specifically authorized in writing by the superintendent and possession of a handgun by an individual licensed to carry a concealed handgun. We would argue that local boards of education are in a better position to make decisions regarding concealed handguns in their schools than a blanket mandate. Also, the current law gives boards the flexibility to limit the authorization to carry to only those given written permission or to allow anyone licensed to carry to possess a concealed handgun in the school. Being able to make these decisions on a district by district basis by elected officials from the community ensures each district will do what is best for them individually.

Thank you for your consideration.