

Dear Chairman Estes and Members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee:

My name is Jo Ella Hoye. I am a parent, a gun owner, an alumna of the University of Kansas, and I volunteer with the Kansas Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. We are a nonpartisan, grassroots gun violence prevention organization, dedicated to advancing policies that respect the Second Amendment and protect our communities from gun violence.

The Kansas Moms Demand Action volunteers and I oppose HB 2042; 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 and allowing 18-20 year-olds who could still be teenagers in high school, to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public.

Last session saw much debate about the issue of forcing colleges in Kansas to allow hidden, loaded handguns 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 last July, 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.

Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Wichita State University have estimated the cost of implementing the law just to prevent concealed handguns in their athletic venues at more than \$2 million. There have been reported instances of firearms being recklessly left in bathrooms, both at KU and Wichita State Universities. Students must decide whether to report classmates who intentionally or unintentionally expose their firearms, thus enforcement has become an onus on students and faculty.

I'm disappointed that this committee has chosen to take up a piece of legislation that would further aggravate an already challenging issue for our college communities by now allowing 18, 19, and 20 year-olds - including those from states that issue permits to some convicted stalkers, and people with no safety training - to carry hidden, loaded handguns on campuses and other public places. Research shows that 18-20 year olds are nearly four times more likely to commit gun homicides than adults over age 20.

Previous testimony regarding guns on campus addressed the concern about students having constant access to firearms, including in the dorms. Proponents for guns on campus assured us that firearms in the dorms would be rare due to the 21 year-old age requirement for permitless carry. Currently, there are fewer than 400 students and staff living in KU's residence halls who are 21 and older, but HB 2042 would expand guns in the dorms to be available to the entire student population.

I urge you to reconsider the proposal to allow colleges to require concealed carry permits in order to carry in college buildings - which would represent a significant step in the right direction for campus safety - and reject the other dangerous provisions within HB 2042. Thank you.

Regards,

Jo Ella Hoye

Chapter Leader

Kansas Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America