

Oppositional Testimony to HB 2042

By Neill Kennedy

I graduated from the University of Kansas in May 2017. In the four years I spent as an undergraduate there, I never once had the feeling that a situation I was in would be better if someone involved had a gun. I have seen numerous house party and bar fights break out over the simplest of misunderstandings or because of deepest of betrayals. It is no secret that university campuses are home to some of the most egregious examples of alcohol abuse while also fostering an environment of stress and competition. In October of 2015, a student was found dead by what was later ruled a suicide by hanging in an on-campus residential hall. In Margot Sanger-Katz's article, "Gun Deaths Are Mostly Suicides," published in *The New York Times* on October 8, 2015, she states that, "More than 60 percent of people in this country who die from guns die by suicide." Later, Sanger-Katz quotes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which claims, "Suicide is the second-most common cause of death for Americans between 15 and 34." The transition from high school to college is an exciting but also challenging time in a young person's life. The ability to have access to a firearm in this stressful and often inebriated environment will only lead to more violence, accidents, and death. Therefore, I urge you to vote "NO" on HB 2042.