

Date of Testimony: February 11, 2018  
Bill Number: Bill HB2042  
Testimony by: Sarah Smith

In Opposition  
Testimony: Written Only

Dear Chairman Bud Estes and the members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB2042, the Concealed Carry bill. I believe it is too great a risk to allow 18 year olds to carry weapons. Young people are more careless an accident-prone. Auto accident statistics bear this out. We must consider public health and be prudent in legislation.

Seven years ago, my life was changed by a firearms accident when a family friend, a lifelong Kansan, the man who taught me how to shoot and a perfectly responsible adult, made mistakes anyone can make and lost his life. He had a new gun he was working with in the morning. He miscounted the bullets as he shot during target practice. Later in the day, my mother visited him at his cabin and, proud of his new purchase and thinking it was empty, he tried to show off. The bullet went up through the side of his neck and through his skull. He was airlifted to the hospital, and after two days of suffering, we sat with his mother, father, and five children as they made the wrenching choice to withdraw life support.

This was a man I'd thought would live forever. He taught me everything I know about gun safety. And still, he slipped up. It was only by chance that he shot himself and not my mother. How could we possibly expect teens to do any better?

Please oppose HB2042.

Thank you,

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