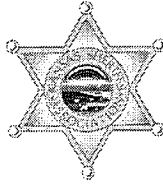




**Kansas Association of  
Chiefs of Police**  
PO Box 780603  
Wichita, KS 67278  
(316)733-7301



**Kansas Sheriffs  
Association**  
PO Box 1853  
Salina, KS 67402  
(785)827-2222



**Kansas Peace Officers  
Association**  
PO Box 2592  
Wichita, KS 67201  
(316)722-8433

**Testimony to the House Corrections & Juvenile Justice Committee  
In Opposition to HB2584  
February 16, 2012**

Chairperson Colloton and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the Kansas Peace Officers Association oppose HB2584. Two years ago we worked with other committees on the knife issue which amended the statutes to allow the knives that can be “flicked” open with a movement of the thumb. What HB2584 seeks to do is to legalize switchblade knives that are spring loaded, in some cases thrusting the blade propelled by a strong spring from the end of the knife. We see no good that comes from legalizing these knives that are widely accepted as being illegal.

Switchblade knives remain unlawful under Federal Law (15 USC §1241 *et. seq.*). Those laws include introducing switchblade knives into interstate commerce and prohibits the manufacture, sale or possession within certain jurisdictions. We believe they should also remain prohibited in Kansas.

The bill goes further to eliminate the prohibitions on carrying any knife, dirk or dagger concealed on ones person. These laws also are useful in urban areas where gang violence is pervasive.

The second point that causes us even greater concern is the provision which prohibits local governments from enacting any restrictions on knives. We strongly believe the needs of various cities and counties across the state vary greatly. The “big four” counties and the cities in those counties face a much different violent crime problem than those cities and counties in rural areas of the state. We believe it is essential for local governing bodies to determine how to address those varying local public safety needs. A cookie cutter approach to prohibiting such local control is ill advised.

This bill is a huge step back in weapons laws that have been applicable in Kansas for many years. A stop most states have not taken. We strongly urge you to not recommend this bill favorably for passage.

Ed Klumpp  
Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Legislative Committee Chair  
Kansas Sheriffs Association. Legislative Liaison  
Kansas Peace Officers Association, Legislative Liaison  
E-mail: eklumpp@cox.net  
Phone: (785) 235-5619  
Cell: (785) 640-1102

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
Committee  
2012 Session  
Date 2-16-12  
Attachment # 4-1