



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

KELLY B. ARNOLD
COUNTY CLERK

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February 21, 2013

Chairman Siegfried,

I am writing in support of HB 2055, an act concerning concealed carry in public & municipal buildings. This is a building security issue that needs to be addressed. The citizens of Kansas and government employees of this state have entrusted the Legislature to preserve their rights to personal protection. The existing Personal and Family Protection Act allows municipal and state buildings, even those without adequate security, to prohibit concealed carry license holders from entering the building with a weapon. This gap in the law needs to be eliminated so that our citizens, including government employees, may protect themselves and their families while in publicly owned facilities. As the Sedgwick County Clerk this bill will directly affect my office, and offices such as mine across the state, and I am in strong support of the language in this bill.

The Sedgwick County Courthouse, where my office is located, does currently have the security necessary under this bill to prohibit Concealed Carry in the building. The entire Sedgwick County Courthouse Complex, however, does not. There are many buildings and locations within the Sedgwick County Complex that my employees enter on a daily basis; buildings that do not have adequate security as provided for in HB 2055. My employees have the right and need to be able to protect themselves when walking to and from a parking garage in the early morning and late evening.

Sedgwick County cannot provide security for employees and citizens in all of our facilities; therefore we must allow citizens the right to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves. I am confident that the law-abiding citizens who have gone through the training and background checks required under the Personal and Family Protection Act will follow the law and not pose a concern while armed within the Sedgwick County Courthouse Complex and other facilities.

I would like to see specific language included in this bill which would compel all government buildings that meet the requirements to prohibit concealed carry to provide gun lockers to the public so that they may check in their firearm upon entering the building. I see a safety need for employees and citizens to be able to carry their firearm into the building rather than leaving it in a vehicle in a parking lot.

I appreciate your support for HB 2055,

Sincerely,

Kelly B. Arnold
Sedgwick County Clerk