

March 14, 2019

Written Opposition Testimony for HB 2378

On July 4th, 1776 a group of Americans gathered together to declare their independence from tyranny. They were tired and weary of proclamations from across the sea, demanding they give power to officials, cede their rights, and allow government to determine how they dispose of and use their own property. Righteous and steadfast, those Founding Fathers were firm in their belief that every man had an unalienable right to life, liberty, and property, violated time and again by the King and his lackeys. They stood up and, together, said enough is enough; their belief in freedom cost many their lives.

Now, more than 240 years later, our liberties and freedoms are under attack once again. Those liberties, bought with the blood of patriots and defended over generations, do not deserve attack; they deserve reverence, respect, and understanding.

And yet this body is considering forcing American citizens, entitled to the rights their predecessors died to defend, to treat their private property as some members of this body wish, rather than with the freedom promised to every American.

If we tell landowners what they can and cannot allow in their property, are we different than King George, forcing American colonists to quarter his troops and their arms? Are we different from those who would force each and every one of us to keep a copy of a Little Red Book? Are we respecting the will and vision of the Founding Fathers, or are we undermining the City on a Hill with modern swords and spears?

No matter your individual opinions on the merits and benefits of private firearms ownership, we must never cross a line where we force property owners to make certain, government-imposed choices merely because of the ideological beliefs of some Kansans. We must never force Kansans to risk a choice between remaining a law-abiding citizen and fully exercising their unalienable rights. To do so would be unjust and to stomp on the vision of freedom and the rights of man enshrined in our Constitution.

Kansas was born a free state, a hard-won liberty and legacy which our state must never forget. From the very start and even before, Kansans have been dedicated to the preservation of individual liberties and freedoms. We hold it close to our hearts, and we have stood up before and demanded out-of-state provocateurs go back to their Confederate enclaves in Virginia, Mississippi, or Tennessee, where their backwards views on freedom and liberty may find more followers. Today, once again out-of-state troublemakers from Virginia have gained the ear of some Kansas lawmakers, and are trying to tell the people of this state how to be free, how to guarantee the freedom of Kansans, and what the moral, righteous choice is. They didn't know what they were talking about when they came, with their guns and violence, in the 1850s. Again, they've come to our state with their guns, and they still don't know what they are talking about.

Please, stand up and defend the vision of a more perfect union, with respect for the unalienable rights of men, just like Kansans have before. Reject HB 2378.

Thank you,

Megan Jones

Private citizen

Resident of House District 27