

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Re: SB199 (Fireworks sales season)

Representatives,

I ask that you please vote no on SB199. Kansas does not need to extend the dates for fireworks sales surrounding the July 4th holiday. Not at all. Kansas really doesn't need year-round fireworks sales, either. There are other ways to celebrate sporting events.

I do like this bill better than previous versions of it, due to the requirement of a permanent building for year-round sales, as well as registering with the Fire Marshall's office.

However, we do not need to add a week in June. Please. People don't understand how damaging fireworks can be.

Each year, several people are seriously injured by fireworks. Increasing the availability of fireworks will only increase the number of injuries.

I was seriously injured in a fireworks accident in 2013, with burns over 19% of my body. My recovery took more than a year. I still suffer from PTSD related to fireworks and loud noises. My skin will never be the same and my doctors told me I'd have PTSD the rest of my life. I know that former military personnel also can have problems with fireworks-related PTSD. People also have pets that are sensitive to fireworks.

The current law is sufficient for sales. Especially for the July 4th holiday. Thank you for reading my testimony on SB199.

Respectfully,

Julie Durand
10321 78th St.
Ozawkie, KS 66070
785-224-1020
julie@jldurand.com