



**TOPEKA FIRE**  
DEPARTMENT

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To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
From: Randy Phillips, City of Topeka  
Date: March 5, 2025  
Re: Opponent Written Only Testimony for SB 199

I would like to sincerely thank Chair Tarwater and the Committee for providing the City of Topeka with the opportunity to express our opposition to SB 199.

The City of Topeka currently has an ordinance in place that regulates the discharge of fireworks to only July 3rd and 4th. From the fire service perspective, allowing year-round sales of fireworks, while having restrictions locally for their legal discharge to a limited number of days, would inevitably lead to a significant rise in the illegal discharge of fireworks throughout the year.

We already face challenges with enforcing the current ordinance and violations are increasingly difficult to manage. Should SB 199 pass, the problems we typically encounter around the July 4th holiday — such as noise complaints, fires, and public safety concerns — would likely expand to a year-round issue. The risk of fires and injuries would undoubtedly increase, especially as access to fireworks becomes more widespread, and as people take it upon themselves to discharge them beyond the legal window.

As someone who personally enjoys fireworks, I understand their appeal. However, from a professional standpoint, the year-round sale of fireworks could have harmful consequences for public safety and the well-being of our citizens. It is imperative that we prioritize the safety and comfort of our community, and allowing year-round sales would undermine these efforts.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of these critical concerns.