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Proponent

David Sowden

SELF

****Testimony to the Kansas Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs Regarding House Bill 2052 & SB 43****

Chairman Thompson, Ranking Minority Member Faust Goudeau, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is David Sowden from Derby, Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today in support of House Bill 2052 and Senate Bill 43. These bills seek to address an important issue affecting the constitutional rights of law-abiding Kansans. While there are many aspects of this bill that I would be honored to support, I am here specifically to speak in favor of the section that would allow provisional concealed carry licenses to convert to standard licenses upon turning 21, ensuring fairness and equal protection for responsible young adults.

As a Kansas citizen, I deeply appreciate the legislature's ongoing efforts to protect our concealed carry rights and strengthen our Second Amendment protections. I have personally held a concealed carry license for approximately 12 years and fully understand the critical role these laws play in ensuring our ability to protect ourselves and our families. I believe that the current issue with provisional licenses is likely an unintentional oversight made while enhancing young adults' ability to protect themselves and preserving reciprocity agreements for all Kansas concealed carry license holders. The legislature's commitment to supporting both our federal Second Amendment rights and the safety of Kansans through stronger concealed carry laws and improved reciprocity agreements with other states is commendable. These actions reflect a dedication to upholding the freedoms we value and ensuring the safety and rights of all law-abiding citizens across the state.

However, the current law unnecessarily restricts the rights of young adults by preventing their provisional licenses from converting to standard licenses when they turn 21, despite these individuals already meeting the necessary training and background check requirements. This delay not only unjustly denies them their full constitutional rights but also leaves them vulnerable by restricting their ability to carry in states that recognize Kansas concealed carry licenses. This issue directly impacts my family, today my daughter and in a few years my son as well.

When I took my children to the Sedgwick County DMV in Derby to receive their provisional concealed carry licenses, we encountered confusion and misinformation. We were told that individuals approaching 21 could not receive a provisional license or that there was a process involving the Kansas Attorney General's office to convert it to a standard license. However, there was extensive confusion amongst the staff and no consensus. We were even

advised to contact a legislator if we were dissatisfied with the information we were receiving. In response, I reached out to a member of the Kansas House of Representatives and was assured that a process existed for converting provisional licenses to standard licenses. Based on that guidance and logical thinking, we proceeded with the provisional license process. However, after both licenses were issued, and following further discussions with the Concealed Carry Division of the Kansas Attorney General's office, in the following weeks, we learned that the current law does not allow for such a conversion. This is why I am here today, providing a first-hand account of the issues with the current legislation and offering my deep appreciation for the committee's efforts to address and correct this oversight.

My 18-year-old son obtained a provisional concealed carry license after completing the state-mandated training and background checks. However, under the current law, he cannot carry concealed with the same legal protections and reciprocity as other license holders until well after his 21st birthday. In fact, he will not have full access to his constitutional right to carry a concealed firearm until a year after his 21st birthday—after any other citizen who did not obtain a provisional license is already allowed to exercise that same right. This unjust delay undermines his ability to protect himself and his loved ones, despite his demonstrated responsibility and adherence to the law.

Similarly, my daughter, who received her provisional concealed carry license just months before turning 21, faces an even more egregious restriction. Under the current law, she will not have full access to her constitutional right to carry a concealed firearm with full reciprocity until she is 24, almost 25—four years after anyone else who did not receive a provisional license is allowed to exercise the same right. This unjust delay diminishes her ability to protect herself during a critical period in her life as a young woman entering adulthood. The law unjustly and unintentionally penalizes responsible individuals who have completed all required training and background checks simply because they chose to obtain a provisional license.

While I have discussed how this issue directly affects my family, they are not alone. Many other Kansans who have exercised their rights and obtained a provisional concealed carry license are currently facing the same unjust limitations.

This restriction serves no legitimate public safety purpose. By delaying access to a standard concealed carry license for individuals who have already met the legal requirements, the state not only weakens their ability to defend themselves but also unjustly withholds their constitutional rights. House Bill 2052 would correct this imbalance by ensuring that provisional license holders are granted the same rights as other responsible, law-abiding citizens upon turning 21.

This legislation is about fairness, justice, and upholding the constitutional integrity of our laws. By passing House Bill 2052, the committee can restore the rights of Kansans who have fulfilled all the requirements for concealed carry and eliminate unnecessary barriers to self-protection.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter and I will stand for any questions the committee might have.

Sincerely,
David Sowden
Derby, KS