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Bill Number: SB43 / HB2052

Proponent

Ashton Sowden

Self

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee

Testimony to the Kansas Senate Committee on State and Federal Affairs Supporting House Bill 2052

Chairman Thompson, Ranking minority member Faust Goudeau, and Esteemed members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2052, which among other adjustments, seeks to convert provisional concealed carry licenses to standard concealed carry licenses.

My name is Ashton Sowden, and I am here to share my personal experience as a Kansan who obtained a provisional concealed carry license shortly before turning 21 years old. I am a law-abiding citizen who values the right to protect myself and my family. I am grateful that Kansas allows individuals under 21 to exercise their Second Amendment rights through provisional licensing. However, the current policy creates a significant gap for people like me, who transition out of the provisional license category but find themselves unable to obtain a standard license.

I received my provisional license just a few months before my 21st birthday. At that time, I was fully trained and committed to exercising my responsibilities as a lawful concealed carry holder. Upon turning 21, I assumed I would have the ability to easily transition to a standard concealed carry license. Unfortunately, I learned that my provisional status would not convert and that I would be required to wait until I am nearly 25 years old to obtain a standard license, under which I cannot request a change in status until it expires, which is four years after the date at which I received it. As a young woman living in today's world, I deeply value my

constitutional right to carry concealed, as it provides a sense of security for both myself and those around me. Being able to defend myself is incredibly important, and it's frustrating that my ability to carry in reciprocal states is limited until I turn 25. I can't even imagine what could happen in the span of a year, let alone four.

This delay is both unnecessary and burdensome. It creates an arbitrary gap that prevents young adults who have already demonstrated their competency and responsibility from maintaining their constitutional rights.

House Bill 2052 addresses these issues by allowing provisional licenses to be converted to standard licenses upon the licensee reaching the age of 21. This logical adjustment ensures that responsible Kansans who have already met the requirements for a provisional license do not lose their right or have it reduced upon their 21st birthday. The bill simplifies the process, eliminates unnecessary barriers, and aligns with the principles of fairness and responsibility.

As someone directly affected by this policy, I strongly urge the committee to pass House Bill 2052. Doing so will not only benefit individuals like me but also strengthen the trust and confidence Kansans have in our state's concealed carry licensing system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions or provide further information as needed.

Sincerely,
Ashton Sowden
Derby, Kansas