



KANSAS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

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Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2412; Removing state agency fees for licenses to carry concealed handguns.

Firearms are used by law-abiding Americans for personal protection on a regular basis, with estimates ranging from 500,000 to more than 3 million occurrences each year.¹ Neither of which is a small number.

The 2021 National Firearms Survey, directed by William English of Georgetown University, surveyed more than 54,000 Americans and identified 16,000 firearm owners. The survey used the largest sample size of any study that has ever been conducted on defensive firearm use, being nearly ten times greater than that of the next largest survey.

Mr. English found that “guns are used defensively by civilian firearms owners in approximately 1.67 million incidents per year. Handguns are the most common firearm employed for self-defense (used in 65.9% of defensive incidents), and in most defensive incidents (81.9%), no shot was fired.”

This survey also found that:

- 81.4 million adult Americans own guns.
- A majority of gun owners (56.2%) indicate that there are some circumstances for which they carry a handgun for self-defense.
- About a third of gun owners (34.9%) have wanted to carry a handgun for self-defense in a particular situation, but local rules prohibited them from doing so.

Kansas was the sixth state in the nation to pass constitutional carry back in 2015. Since then, the move to eliminate unreasonable barriers and misplaced restrictions on self-defense rights has gained popularity in many other states. Today, half the nation enjoys constitutional carry.

Here at home, several improvements have been made to Kansas concealed carry laws over recent years, adding benefit to those who choose to take the step of obtaining a concealed carry permit. Even with constitutional carry in place, concealed carry permits are still being issued by the State of Kansas at healthy levels, largely due to our state’s incredible reciprocity with other states.

While most surrounding states have passed constitutional carry, many Kansans still find themselves traveling to destinations that still only allow a person from out of state to carry a firearm with a valid permit from their home state. In addition to other benefits, the bill before you today would lower the cost for Kansans to exercise their right to defend themselves and their families while traveling.

People who take the steps to obtain their concealed carry permit are law-abiding, responsible firearm owners. These are exactly the kind of people we should be encouraging to exercise their rights.

While the current fees may not seem high to many of us here today, I can say from personal experience as a former campaign staffer and legislative employee for many years, that it's not in everyone's budget. Not every Kansan can afford to pay \$100+ in permit fees on top of the hundreds of dollars it costs to purchase a quality firearm, take classes, get fingerprinted, and cover ongoing expenses like purchasing practice ammunition, paying range fees to get proficient, and purchasing self-defense insurance, among other things.

Single mothers, people who live in low-income neighborhoods, the elderly on fixed incomes, and female college students who live off-campus are all prime targets for violent crime.

Unfortunately, these potential victims also have the most difficulty covering the expenses associated with carrying a firearm with a concealed carry permit. Eliminating state agency fees on concealed carry permits is a big step towards empowering more potential targets of violence to refuse to be victims by taking the next step of obtaining a concealed carry permit.

Our state and our neighbors are safer today because of the over 81,000 Kansans with active concealed carry permits. Encouraging more law-abiding Kansans to go through the training, fingerprinting, and background check associated with getting these permits is a good thing.

We look forward to getting this bill passed to lower the bar for law-abiding Kansans to enjoy the benefits of Kansas' unrivaled concealed carry reciprocity, carry concealed rather than being restricted to carrying openly from age 18 through 20, and avoid potential unnecessary delays when purchasing a firearm for self-defense.

The Kansas State Rifle Association strongly urges the Committee to report HB 2412 favorable for passage.

Sincerely,
Moriah

MORIAH DAY

Executive Director

[Kansas State Rifle Association](#)

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Sources:

1) <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/oct/5/guns-used-more-for-self-defense-than-crimes/>

2) English, William, 2021 National Firearms Survey (July 14, 2021). Georgetown McDonough School of Business Research Paper No. 3887145, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3887145> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3887145>