

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Testimony by Forrest Knox in OPPOSITION to **SB 53**

Creating a permanent exemption for certain entities
from the public buildings law
under the personal and family protection act.

Chairman LaTurner and Committee Members:

It's a privilege to stand before you today to testify about the Kansas statutes related to security in publicly owned buildings. I stand in strong opposition to the current legislation being considered, SB 53.

I am here today because of my involvement, both as a State Representative and a State Senator, in legislation leading to the current Kansas statutes. I have attached to my testimony statistics and related references which deal primarily with campus carry, though Kansas statutes don't distinguish between the various state and municipal publicly owned buildings. I share here why the existing statutes were adopted and my observations since they have become law.

Highlighting the statistics; note that in the last 20 years all 50 states have now adopted concealed carry, with Kansas being one of the last, over 10 years ago. Two thirds of the states allow campus carry, with 9 states mandating it, in one form or another. Campus carry has existed in the nation for over 20 years, with multiple campuses allowing it for the last 10 years. By 2012 hundreds of campuses were allowing concealed carry, with more states coming on board each year.

Colorado has an interesting history of campus carry because, for a time, some campuses prohibited guns while other campuses allowed them (until the courts forced all to obey the law and allow guns on campus). In the 7 years when CSU allowed guns and UC did not, CSU was much advantaged both in enrollment gains and in decreased campus crime.

The Harvard School of Public Health study in 1997 found that 6.4 percent of male students and 1.5 percent of female students reported having a working firearm at college (though policies and laws did not allow this). *Violence on Campus*, published in 1998, reported that from 6% to 7% of students carry some form of a weapon on campus.

Here are the facts!

THERE HAS BEEN NO "WILD, WILD WEST." As all states now allow ordinary citizens to carry a concealed weapon, CRIME HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY. The only significant crime is in the cities where firearms are most restricted. The lowest crime rates are in the areas where guns are most available to citizens.

GUNS ARE ALREADY ON CAMPUS, and everywhere. Signs only stop law abiding citizens.

Kansas statutes allow local governments and campuses to restrict guns in their buildings, disarming citizens, but only if they provide adequate security for the disarmed citizens. Since this law took effect in 2013, most buildings are allowing concealed carry. There has been no negative effect. Governing bodies determined where security was required and provided the security. ITS BEEN A NON-ISSUE! - No "wild, wild west."

Concealed carry is legal on all public Kansas campuses (it can only be restricted in buildings) and is allowed in at least some of the campus buildings. I recently visited Wichita State Univ. - Hubbard Hall to speak to a group of students about gun laws. The building was not posted. Concealed carry is legal there.

This is about the Constitution. This is about trust. I believe that America is exceptional in this world because only in America does the government trust its citizens. Only in America are basic rights guaranteed to its citizens. The number one duty of government is to protect the liberty of the citizen. Liberty is what has allowed Americans to prosper at a level far beyond any other nation.

The only alternative to citizens providing for their own security is a police state. History shows us how that works out. The chief murderer of law abiding citizens throughout history has been the governments of nations, nations who have restricted the citizens access to any means of providing for their own security.

It is my observation in recent years as Kansas has adopted licensed concealed carry, the public building security act, legalization of the carry of all knives (even concealed and switchblades), and permit-less concealed carry of firearms that it has been a non-issue. There is no blood running in the streets. Crime is not up significantly. Accidents are not common. Suicide (which is definitely an issue that needs attention) is not epidemic, as guns have always been readily available if you want one.

Because I have sought out the data, I have seen many accounts of crime being averted, lives being saved, rapes being stopped, etc. by citizens that have a ready means to protect themselves. We usually don't hear about these because they are not news worthy. There's nothing to hear about.

One key point I've learned in pushing citizen's rights to defend themselves, is that some elected officials, some government bureaucrats, some law enforcement officers are more afraid of law abiding citizens with guns than of the criminals. They've actually told me this. This is very concerning to me. They don't trust you and me. I don't trust them with my life. They have no duty to protect me.

In America, government trusts citizens. Citizens don't trust government.

Recently you swore an oath to uphold the Constitution. Protect my liberty!

If I can be of any further assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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Statistics

50 states allow concealed carry.

24 states allow campus carry (institutions decide).

9 states mandate some form of campus carry:

Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Tennessee.

17 states prohibit campus carry.

Campuses allowing individuals to carry concealed handguns (from the date given):

1995 - Blue Ridge Community College.

2003 - Colorado State University – two campuses (Fort Collins, CO, and Pueblo, CO).

2006 - Utah's public colleges (20 campuses), and public technical colleges (10 campuses).

2010 - Colorado community colleges (38 campuses).

2012 - **Colorado Supreme Court ruling** officially legalized campus carry across **Colorado**.

2012 Total number of campuses that allow campus carry is well **over 220 campuses**.

2013 Kansas Concealed Carry in Public Buildings (including campuses).

2013 Arkansas Campus Carry

2016 Tennessee Campus Carry

2016 Georgia Campus Carry – vetoed by governor

2016 Ohio Campus Carry

2016 Texas Campus Carry

Colorado comparison – for the period 2004 – 2011:

University of Colorado (Prohibited Campus Carry) vs

Colorado State University (Permit Campus Carry)

Undergrad enrollment **increased 0.8%**

Undergrad enrollment **increased 9.1%**

Reported campus **crimes increased 37%**

Reported campus **crimes decreased 61%**

Overall Campus Crime in the USA

Lower crime rates on campus than nation as a whole.

Presently **campus crime rates are increasing** (while overall crime rates are decreasing in the USA)

1991 – 2003 from 10 to 24 homicides on American college campuses every year.

2008 Campus Crime Statistics:

3287 Rapes 60 Killings 5026 Assaults 4562 Robberies 9 Sexual Assaults per day

Current statistics: over 30,000 on-campus violent crimes against students per year.

Concealed Carry has been allowed in Utah **K-12** since **1995** – **never an incident**.

The Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study, a 1997 follow up of the 1993 study.

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/cas/Documents/guns-article/>

A random sample of more than 15,000 undergraduate students from 130 4-year colleges.

The Harvard study found that 6.4 percent of male students and 1.5 percent of female students report having a working firearm at college. Overall, 3.5 percent of students have guns at school, two-thirds of whom live off campus. There are 8.8 million students currently enrolled in four-year American colleges and an additional 5.5

million who attend two-year colleges. According to the study, most colleges have policies that do not permit gun possession on campus.

The authors of *Violence on Campus*, published in 1998, noted that despite widespread concern about violence on campus, "numbers and percentages of students who possess weapons on their campuses are . . . unknown."¹(p117) General weapon *carrying* at college⁴⁻⁶ was examined in three previous studies; all reported that from 6% to 7% of students carry some form of a weapon on campus.

“Resisting with a gun greatly lowered the risk of the victim being injured, or of the crime being completed.”

Per ***Guns on university campuses: The Colorado Experience***

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/04/20/guns-on-university-campuses-the-colorado-experience/?utm_term=.56399c2e6f91

By David Kopel April 20, 2015

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts in-person interviews with several thousand persons annually, for the National Crime Victimization Survey. In 1992-2002, over 2,000 of the persons interviewed disclosed they had been raped or sexually assaulted. Of them, only 26 volunteered that they used a weapon to resist. **In none of those 26 cases** was the rape completed; in none of the cases did the victim suffer additional injury after she deployed her weapon.

Professor Gary Kleck, author of the above study, then conducted a much broader examination of NCVS data. Analyzing a data set of 27,595 attempted violent crimes and 16 types of protective actions, Kleck **found** that resisting with a gun greatly lowered the risk of the victim being injured, or of the crime being completed.

Other Sources:

NCSL - GUNS ON CAMPUS: OVERVIEW

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/guns-on-campus-overview.aspx>

Tough Targets: When Criminals Face Armed Resistance From Citizens, Cramer & Burnett, 2012, **CATO Institute**

<http://www.cato.org/publications/white-paper/tough-targets-when-criminals-face-armed-resistance-citizens>

Pretend “Gun-Free” School Zones: A Deadly Legal Fiction, Kopel, **Connecticut Law Review**, Volume 42, No. 2, Dec. 2009 Univ. of Connecticut

Right-To-Carry: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Of Concealed Carry on Colorado State University, Allen, CSU-Ft. Collins, Student Paper

When colleges deny students their constitutional right to carry firearms, they create “defense-free” zones where evil can prey with impunity, Burnett, Duck and Cover, **NRA**

<http://www.nrarepublications.org/index.php/9366/duck-cover/>