

Testimony on HB 2353
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
January 25, 2012
David Wallis, Cherryvale

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of H.B. 2353. I would like to give you a brief bio on myself so you may understand the full content of what I believe and what has inspired me to travel to Topeka and speak on this subject.

I grew up in Wichita and joined the Marine Corps after high school in 1984. I served in multiple conflicts abroad and retired after 20 years of honorable service with a 60% medical disability. I returned to Kansas in 2005 and began my re-integration as a citizen. After 20 years of hard living and many sacrifices, it took me a while to get used to civilian life. I have been blessed by being a part of an exceptional community of accepting neighbors and employers. They continue to allow me to be me, a former Marine.

Since my return to Kansas I have served as a Rural Fireman, Sheriff Reserve Deputy, Township Clerk, and Precinct Committeeman. I have run for public office, been an advocate for property tax relief, and was selected to serve on the strategic planning committee for our Community College. I also own and operate a small Carriage Company. I am an outspoken activist when it comes to issues of liberty. When legislation becomes an issue with me, I go the extra mile to address it with my Representative. I once rode my horse over to Virgil Peck's home and discussed Veterans Benefits with him. My point is this; I put my fundamental beliefs to action, as I feel those actions speak louder than mere words.

Since I have become politically active, I have watched in frustration over our Federal Government's open abuse and disregard to the individual liberties granted us by our Constitution. I am fundamentally a simple man and I believe in simple things. I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States from all enemies both foreign and domestic. Our Constitution began with a Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." I believe that the Bill of Rights enumerated these inalienable rights of individual liberty. The core of my beliefs is founded in those individual liberties given me by my creator, not my government.

I further believe that laws are meant to govern, not restrict those liberties. The foundation of the Constitution restricted Government so that **IT** would be limited, not the citizens it serves. I believe this amendment to the current law puts the restriction where it belongs, on the government. The concealed carry law is for law-abiding citizens, not criminals. As a licensed Kansan for over 4 years, I have had many occasions to see every sort of situation when it comes to open carry and concealed carry. On the one hand, I find it offensive that I am considered a perceived threat by my own government and on the other that same government feels me

trust worthy enough to be issued a license to carry concealed throughout the State. How am I not a threat on the streets of Kansas but I am in public buildings?

As a responsible license holder, I also believe that each business owner should be allowed to decide for themselves if a customer can be armed on their property or not. Those that support the 2nd Amendment get my patronage; those that restrict that inalienable right do not receive my money. You see, individual liberties must not be restricted without the ability to redress them. If public buildings truly want to be gun free, they should be required to ensure my safety from criminals. If they are willing to assume that duty, I am willing to disarm. But without that assurance, I chose to provide for myself that security I deem appropriate. If I am to be held accountable as a license holder, my government should be as well.

I must be able to retain my individual liberties if I am to be truly free. Being that these are public buildings, I do not have the choice that I do with private industry. As it is, I am treated as a perceived threat by my State government, though I have broken no law. As the law now stands, I am being stripped of my individual liberty and given no recourse for redress strictly due to perception and not common sense. We must not follow Federal legislation that criminalizes patriots, but enact laws that protect and defend our founding liberties. The 2nd Amendment is worth defending. Do not infringe on our inalienable rights, but restrict our government so that those rights are protected, not criminalized. Thank you for your time.

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