



Testimony

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Personal and Family Protection Act HB 2353

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The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City opposes HB 2353. It is a massive unfunded big government mandate on local governments and the citizens they represent. The bill crushes local control and nullifies decision-making by locally elected officials.

The requirements of the bill are so burdensome and costly, many cities and counties will have no choice but to allow the carrying of concealed weapons into City Hall, recreation centers and other public buildings because they can't afford to do otherwise.

For the Unified Government, the cost of placing metal detectors and guards at the entrances of our municipal buildings would cost at a minimum \$912,000 upfront for the metal detectors and \$1.2-million a year in additional security guard costs. There's no way the Unified Government can afford that expense, so the bill bullies us into allowing guns in our public buildings whether our elected officials or our citizens want that or not.

But the most abusive part of the bill is paragraph (b) of Section 1 which says:

- *"No state agency or municipality shall prohibit an employee who is licensed to carry a concealed handgun under the provisions of the personal and family protection act from carrying such concealed handgun at the employee's work place unless the work place has adequate security measures and is properly posted prohibiting concealed carry."*

So not only does HB 2353 let the Legislature impose its will on local-elected officials, it allows State government to intrude into the employer-employee relationship by over-riding workplace rules and mandating personnel policies.

I often hear many legislators complain about the Federal government intruding on the lives of Kansans with unwelcome, costly rules and policies. This bill does the same thing to local communities, but this time it's the State playing the role of the "we know what's best for you, just do as we say" big meddling government.