



Testimony

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Carrying of Concealed Guns by Public Employees Senate Bill 65

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House Federal and State Affairs Committee**

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City opposes Senate Bill 65. It is an unwarranted intrusion into local control and meddles with our ability to operate our workplace.

This measure places restrictions on local governments as employers which it does not impose on private companies. The Unified Government does have a personnel policy which prohibits employees from carrying guns while they are on the job. This bill would pre-empt that workplace rule.

When it comes to managing hundreds or in our case 2,000 employees, a local government is no different than a private employer. If you won't try to dictate workplace policies to General Motors, Sprint, Koch Industries or any other company, then don't dictate workplace rules and policies to local governments either. An employer is an employer and for the Legislature to meddle in telling an employer how to best manage their business is a gross over-reach of authority.

Kansas voters adopted the Home Rule amendment of the Kansas Constitution nearly 60 years ago. That amendment is about small government and local control. Policy decisions which affect a city or county are made at the community level by citizens elected by the community. The Unified Government believes in the Constitution and the rights of local control.

Many lawmakers here in the Statehouse express that the 10th Amendment of the United States dealing with States' Rights is being ignored by the Federal Government. I would contend the Home Rule Amendment of Kansas Constitution is too often ignored by the Kansas Legislature. Too many Kansas legislators rail against the Federal Government imposing unwanted policies on the State, but then turn around and do the same thing to local governments.