

I'm Dr. Ron Barrett, the Spokesperson for the Kansas Conference of the American Association of University Professors. I am also a weaponeer, ballistics expert and aerospace engineering professor.

As we all know, the current overarching gun law KSA 75-7c01 et seq. needs help. During the hearing for HB 2074 you heard from many constituencies begging you to bring reason to this law by passing HB 2074. Today the bill before you represents an even further departure from reason and must be stopped.

### **Founding Fathers**

I'm sure that everyone in this room will agree that the most authoritative interpreters of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment were the people who wrote it, our Founding Fathers. Most of the time, legal experts, lawmakers and historians are left to guess what the interpretation of our Founding Fathers would be in a particular circumstance. As fate would have it, we need not guess about guns on campus. Our Founding Fathers left us writing and specific examples to follow:

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were the two chief architects of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1824, they were members of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia (equivalent to our Kansas Board of Regents). The six-man Board issued very clear rules against keeping and using weapons or arms of any kind anywhere on campus or in its environs.

*No Student shall, within the precincts of the University, introduce, keep or use any spirituous or vinous liquors, keep or use weapons or arms of any kind, or gunpowder...*

There's no need to guess. Our own Founding Fathers kept weapons off their college campus. Students were not permitted to keep their own weapons on campus or in their private dwellings.

Madison and Jefferson did not assume that the ban alone would suffice, so they also ordered that students who drew lethal weapons were liable for "instant expulsion" from the university.

Madison and Jefferson held that prohibiting firearms on university campuses was sensible, Constitutional, and necessary for the proper functioning of the institution itself.

### **Industrial Research Facilities**

As I mentioned during testimony on HB 2074, major universities have become Industrial Research Facilities, there are hundreds of labs across Kansas with explosive materials like those found in my lab, including: nitromethane, methanol, butane, propane, acetylene, rocket fuel, jet fuel, aviation gasoline and lithium thionyl chloride. The Hollywood-induced delusion that a shootout between "good guys" and "bad guys" will protect students is crazy.

A single gunshot through a flammables cabinet on many campuses would be catastrophic.

Given the reality of modern research universities today, the wording of HB 2220 is exceedingly dangerous in that it takes away the ability for the Campus Chief of Police and Campus Safety Officials to demand proper gun storage, holstering and transportation. It preempts the Fire Marshall's ability to demand that ammunition be safely kept in proper containers. It strips university Airport Managers and even flight crews the ability to demand that guns and ammunition be carried in gun-safe, flight-rated cases. It even takes away the ability of university medical personnel from insuring that weapons are nowhere near large magnetic field facilities.

### **Travel Warnings**

The level of physical danger presented to students, faculty and staff by KSA 75-7c and HB 2220 is simply astounding as the combination forms the most reckless gun laws in the country. Because the law is so terribly flawed, others outside of Kansas are taking note. Currently, at least one foreign nation has issued travel warnings for their students and scholars considering coming to Kansas. As more follow suit, the travel warnings are bound to expand beyond scholars to their traveling public and corporate entities. With laws like this Kansas runs the risk of being labeled as an out-of-control, lawless frontier where foreigners, foreign investment and foreign companies are not only not welcome, but their staff would be at physical risk if they would come.

## **Hovering Drone Missile**

While it is interesting to hear speakers stand here and describe the effects of laws in abstract terms, I thought I would show you a casualty of KSA 75-7c and describe how HB 2220 will put the nails in its coffin. Beside me is a hovering drone missile, the XQ-138B. This aircraft is like no other and the product not only of Kansas, but of a Regents institution. It dashes as fast as a missile, loiters like a drone and can land like a helicopter. Clearly it is designed to help our men and women in uniform and has tremendous potential to bring many dozens to hundreds of well-paying high tech jobs to Kansas.

Standard industry and Federal Government lab protocols strictly forbid firearms from flightlines, test facilities and shop floors. Unfortunately, because KSA 75-7c ensures that armed employees will have unfettered access to high tech labs, the potential for firearms mishaps is very real. Because HB 2220 prevents lab managers from enforcing even the most basic laboratory safety protocols with respect to firearms, keeping the lab open and continuing experimental work on this aircraft and others like it would be an act of gross negligence.

As a result of KSA 75-7c and HB 2220 responsible lab directors are left with no alternative than to shut down all experimental work on this project. While they can handily switch to theoretical work, the experimental airframe development is being forced out of state. With the real airframes goes the real program. With the real program goes the jobs. As I am speaking today, the chief engineer on this program, is interviewing with Cal Poly. They are eager to have it and a myriad of other projects developed in high tech Regents labs including:

- The world's fastest quadcopter
- Guided sniper rounds
- Guided 20, 25 and 30mm cannon shells for aerial gunnery
- Bovine inoculation drones
- Coast Guard cigar boat interdiction drones

So in short, a vote for HB 2220 sends good jobs that should go to Parsons, Derby and Wichita instead to California and Florida. A vote for HB 2220 is a vote against our armed forces and a vote against the will and example of our Founding Fathers. I implore this committee also to work and pass HB 2074 before truly irreversible damage is done.