

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR
REGARDING SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 2278**

The right to bear arms is essential towards preserving our freedoms and maintaining self-government. As Governor, that is why I have signed numerous pieces of legislation defending this inherent right of Kansans. I also share a common goal with every member of the Kansas Legislature—to keep the people of Kansas safe and ensure their constitutional rights are protected.

In effort to preserve these protections while balancing concerns from state mental health hospitals and various medical organizations, I assembled stakeholders to negotiate a compromise. An idea was put forward that preserved the constitutional rights of our citizens while accounting for the logistical and safety concerns of state mental health hospitals. I endorsed this compromise. Ultimately, however, this compromise was rejected by health care representatives.

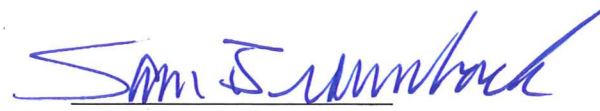
This bill as passed allows for a restriction on the second amendment rights of Kansans without ensuring adequate safety measures are taken to protect those who visit or work in our public hospitals. Kansans should not be forced to subject themselves to greater risk while giving up their right to protect themselves. Second amendment rights do not disappear when walking through the doors of a hospital or medical facility. Those facilities, owned or operated by the state or local government, have a heightened responsibility to ensure the safety of patients, visitors, and employees alike.

Nevertheless, this bill does address the safety concerns at state mental health hospitals, appropriately restricting the ability to conceal carry in state mental health hospitals—a measure that has wide and bipartisan support. Because I support the effort to provide state mental health hospitals authority to restrict concealed carry in certain facilities, I will not exercise my constitutional authority to veto this bill.

I remain committed to ensuring the right of Kansans to bear arms throughout our state, and I encourage the legislature to continue its efforts to find a better balance between the safety concerns raised by some hospitals and the legitimate concerns of citizens preferring the ability to protect themselves or avail themselves of the adequate security measures taken by our public health facilities.

Accordingly, pursuant to Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, I will allow Senate Substitute for House Bill 2278 to become law without my signature.

Dated: June 15, 2017



Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas