



# City of Lawrence

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

THOMAS M. MARKUS  
CITY MANAGER

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CITY COMMISSION

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January 26, 2017

Senator Jacob LaTurner  
Chair, Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs  
Room 144-S, Statehouse  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman LaTurner and Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs members,

Senate Bill 53 would allow for more local control. Local elected officials are in the best position to make decisions for Kansas cities and are accountable to voters for those decisions. Passage of SB 53 as currently written, would allow cities to determine if carrying a concealed handgun in municipal buildings is appropriate.

On behalf of the City of Lawrence I want to express our strong support for the adoption of SB 53, which allows cities to exempt buildings from the "adequate security measures" mandate indefinitely, rather than only four years with the adoption of a security plan. Current law, places the City in the untenable position of determining which City buildings are more important than others and therefore warrant the additional expense of installing costly "adequate security measures". All City buildings, the employees who work inside and the residents visiting them deserve a safe environment. SB 53 would allow the governing body additional time to critically consider how best to secure City buildings without being hastened to a decision by current statute.

We encourage you to support passage of this bill as currently written, which gives local control to Kansas municipalities.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Markus  
City Manager

