

March 7, 2024

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2803 Gun Rights Preservation Act

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2803.

This bill is unconstitutional. Because federal law is the law of the land and supersedes state law, this bill will be disregarded by Kansas law enforcement. Missouri tried to pass a similar bill, and that was also found unconstitutional after several years of litigation. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that it usurped federal law, and the Supreme Court agreed with them. This is a waste of taxpayers' dollars and of legislators' time.

In addition to the unconstitutionality of the bill, the vast majority of Kansans support common ground gun reform. Some statistics to back this are 72.3% support universal background checks, 77.9% support 21 year old age requirement, 73.3% support red flag laws, and 72.3% support a 3 day waiting period. Please do not ignore the voices of your constituents.

Since Kansas has been decreasing gun regulations, the state has seen a 32% increase in gun related deaths. There have been more shootings in Kansas in the last five years than in the last 40 years combined. My children go to Maize schools. They had a threat last week. A large percentage of students chose to stay home, as opposed to risk going to school with the threat of violence. Please do something to make these threats less likely, not more likely.

In closing, please vote no on bill HB 2803.

Sara Askew

Kansas Resident

Wichita