

March 7, 2024

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Holly Tilden

TITLE: Kansas Resident, Teacher, Parent, & Concerned Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: hmtilden@gmail.com

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 unconstitutional bill will inevitably waste taxpayer's dollars and the time of the legislature, on top of weakening gun laws which makes all of us less safe.

Since Kansas began chipping away at its gun regulations, the state has seen a 32% increase in gun-related deaths. There have been more school shootings in the last five years than in the last 40 years combined. Between 2020 and 2021 alone, there was a 12.4% increase in suicides caused by firearms. We do not have to live this way. Our politicians, and their funders, are choosing this way of life for us.

It is a fact that most Kansans are in favor of common sense gun laws. Over 70% of all Kansans support universal background checks, 21 year old age requirements, red flag laws, a 3-day waiting period, and they want federal officers in Kansas to be able to do their jobs to keep our communities, our leaders (like you!), our children, and our loved ones safe.

As a mom, an educator, a friend, and an involved community member, I worry *every single day* whether or not my life will change drastically because someone got a gun instead of mental health support. Please put your limited time and energy into finding ways to care for humans instead of increasing our chances of being hurt.

Please vote no on bill HB 2803.

Sincerely,

Holly Tilden

Prairie Village, KS