

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 testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

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

I strongly oppose HB 2803 because it will make our state even more unsafe. I am confused why time is being spent on a bill that when presented in Missouri was found to be unconstitutional. Federal Law is Supreme. It would be a waste of my tax money to pursue this bill.

Please recognize that the majority of Kansans favor common ground gun control including universal background checks, the 21 year age requirement, implementing red flag laws, and want Federal Law Enforcement to be able to protect Kansans.

As is true in many parts of our country, gun related deaths including suicides are up in Kansas in the last five years.

My personal story is that I managed to avoid being a possible victim of a gun related incident in my own home. When my husband was forced into retirement, he did not take it well. He drank too much and was extremely depressed, mentioning often how everyone would be better off if he were no longer alive. One night he drank more excessively than ever and I found myself locked in my powder room with the landline and my mobile phone. He beat upon the door repeatedly, disconnected the landline, and after much time, he passed out. Just two months before that I had asked a friend to remove the guns from our house and store them in his gun safe. Thankfully he agreed and did just that. I will always believe that my husband and I could have lost our lives that night if I had not been proactive about removing guns.

Also, as a first and second grade teacher I trained students for Active Shooter drills. I will never forget the look in their innocent faces when we had these sessions.

We can and must do better than this for the sake of all citizens, young and old.

I implore you to vote no on bill HB 2803.

Deborah Turner

Retired SMSD elementary teacher

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