

Dear Committee members,

My name is Katie Mangelsdorf. I live in Lenexa, Kansas, in HD 17 and SD 21. I am a mother of 3 and I want to know that I've done everything I can to keep my children safe in our state.

I am contacting you today in strong support of HB 2251, a relinquishment bill that is simply a common sense extension of current domestic violence law already in place.

In 2018, a bill to prohibit domestic abusers from possessing guns was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and signed into law by then-Governor Jeff Colyer. However, Kansas law doesn't require prohibited domestic abusers to turn in the guns they may already have. Adding a process for abusers to relinquish firearms would help ensure domestic abusers in Kansas don't have easy access to guns. When a domestic abuser becomes legally allowed to have guns again, law enforcement would be required to return any guns the abuser had previously relinquished.

Gun violence prevention is more important than ever this year as the pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence in Kansas following a year of increased gun sales, increased risk of suicide and domestic violence, and an increase in city gun violence. Every month, an average of 53 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner. Between 2015 and 2019, at least 157 people were killed in domestic violence homicides in Kansas. Access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely a woman will be killed and nearly three out of every five domestic violence homicides in Kansas involved a firearm. Additionally, women of color are victims of homicide at higher rates than white women, and over 55 percent of these killings are committed by an intimate partner.

In 2019 alone, Kansas law enforcement agencies reported responding to over 22,000 domestic violence incidents. We know that the pandemic only made both the domestic violence, as well as the gun violence problems in our state worse. But we can do something about it. Taking the next step and requiring convicted domestic violence offenders to relinquish the guns that they already have is simple common sense, seeing as how we already have indicated that they are not allowed to purchase guns.

Thank you for your time. Please vote in support of this important legislation for our Kansas families.

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