

My name is Mary Snipes. I am a constituent from Geary County, City of Junction City, Kansas 66441. I am also a mother, a parent, a wife, a sister, an aunt, and a friend. I am submitting testimony because I don't want another family to go through the pain of feeling unsafe, pain of their family structure being destroyed, pain of emptiness, and an empty chair at their table.

My family's life changed on Friday, August 31st, 2018 when an individual shot and took our 29 year-old son, Felix Snipes, away from us. Felix had an awesome smile, would tell jokes that sometimes weren't funny but you just had to laugh, he cared deeply about his siblings, and parents. Felix was free spirited, he loved wearing loud neon colors but he also enjoyed dressing up as if he was a model, he wanted everyone to get along with each other, especially family.

Felix cared about giving to others even when he didn't have anything; he was one of the top ranked athletes in the state of Kansas for sports during his high school years. We have had so many great memories and lovable moments of Felix that I could go on and on. Felix was/is our child, our son, a brother... he was not a number. I miss him every day. Losing a child is like a form of "EMPTINESS!" This is my reality.

I am submitting testimony concerning keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. HB 2251/SB 192 will require prohibited domestic abusers to relinquish their firearms and strengthen the law enacted in 2018 prohibiting domestic abusers from purchasing or possessing guns. Domestic abusers should not have access to guns. My son's life was taken by an individual who was in a domestic dispute hours before shooting Felix. Felix, our oldest son, my children's sibling, a innocent individual shot by a domestic abusers.

This is a tremendous loss to my family. We have gone through anger, hurt, insecurity, lack of trust, identity, and role re-organization. I do not want another family to go through the pain that my family has endured. It's time to close the loophole in Kansas law and help ensure that no prohibited domestic abusers have easy access to firearms in the state of Kansas. Please help enforce current law by requiring abusers to turn in their guns for as long as they are prohibited from possessing them. My family lives have been forever changed and we care about the safety of my community, neighborhood, city, and state.

Mary Snipes