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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JO ELLA HOYE
17TH DISTRICT

March 2, 2022
SB 192 Proponent Testimony

Dear Chair Olson, Vice Chair Hilderbrand, Ranking Member Faust-Goudeau, and Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of important legislation that prioritizes the safety of Kansas children and families. In 2018, the legislature overwhelmingly passed HB 2145 to prohibit the possession of a firearm by persons convicted of a misdemeanor domestic violence offense and those subject to court orders restraining them from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner, child, or child of an intimate partner. Governor Colyer signed the bill into law, and it was an important step to help keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

Domestic violence is undeniably a problem for public safety including the safety of children, families, and law enforcement. A problem that remains is that Kansas does not have a streamlined process for those convicted of the aforementioned domestic violence offenses or subject to domestic violence restraining orders to relinquish guns that they may already have in their possession.

SB 192 would require a judge to issue a written relinquishment order upon conviction for domestic battery, domestic violence misdemeanors, and upon issuance of a restraining order. The individual, upon receipt of the order, will have 24 hours to relinquish firearms to a law enforcement officer or federal firearms dealer and 48 hours to provide proof of relinquishment to the court. Such person is already prohibited from possessing firearms, so the written relinquishment order provides them with a clear notice and explanation of the process for the transport and surrender of the individual's firearms. The clarity and information provided by these relinquishment orders will help ensure that these individuals understand how to safely and promptly transport their guns in compliance with the law.

The Kansas Legislature has come together to protect Kansas families from domestic violence before. Let's put in place the enforcement mechanism necessary to make sure that domestic abusers turn in guns they may already have for the period of time they are prohibited from having them by passing SB 192. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Ella Hoye #17". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Jo Ella Hoye