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January 24, 2012

RE: House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
House Bill No. 2427 Hearing

Dear Chairwoman Colloton and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering my testimony. My name is Patricia Stoneking and I am the President and Registered Lobbyist for The Kansas State Rifle Association and I represent over 6000 KSRA members, 48,000 NRA members as well as nearly 900 gun dealers. I am a proponent of House Bill Number 2427.

The Dealer Entrapment Act is necessary because of the actions of Mayor Bloomberg. He runs a group called Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG). Mayor Bloomberg, from NEW YORK, has made it his mission in life to do everything he can to destroy the Second Amendment and would like for all of us to promptly turn our guns in to be melted down. Of course then only criminals would have guns. His organization, MAIG, is a front for such work. Only 3 Kansas Mayors signed on in the beginning because they believed he was only against illegal guns. They soon found out he was after a lot more than that and promptly discontinued their membership in this organization out of complete disgust because they believe in the law abiding citizen's right to own firearms. I know because I talked to those Mayors at length. And thankfully, no other Mayor in Kansas bought in to the MAIG mantra of deceit.

Most recently, Bloomberg and his ilk at MAIG thought it would be a fine idea to run "stings" on gun dealers in states all over the country. Now mind you, these are not law enforcement individuals operating under the rule of law or with probable cause as required by the Constitution. These are private individuals from NEW YORK, who think they should medal in the business of other States and work to entrap gun dealers using whatever means they believe will work to accomplish their mission in order to make a case for gun control. I'm sure that Bloomberg also thought that Fast and Furious was a good idea and we all see what happened with that! People died because of an irresponsible program designed purely to make a case for gun control.

In criminal law, entrapment is conduct by a law enforcement official inducing a person to commit an offense that the person would otherwise have been unlikely to commit. In most jurisdictions it is also a possible defense against criminal liability. Hence, even Law Enforcement treads lightly in this area. And since when did it become okay for NON Law Enforcement individuals to fraudulently represent themselves and present an idea for committing a crime to another in an effort to persuade a person to commit an offense? They are not simply giving someone the opportunity to commit a crime, they are persuading them to do so.

We oppose anyone from any other State coming to Kansas and trying to entrap our gun dealers, who by all statistical counts are doing the right thing and abiding by the law. This legislation simply makes clear that there are stiff penalties for those who wish to engage in such egregious behavior and that if you come to Kansas and commit such a crime you will be charged with a felony. I say Hear! Hear! and Thank you to Representatives Jim Kelly, Connie O'Brien and Jana Goodman for standing up to this group, and anyone else for that matter, by presenting legislation to protect our dealers in Kansas.

Ms. Chairwoman and members of the Committee, thank you for considering our position in this most important matter. We respectfully urge that you protect Kansas gun dealers and vote in support of HB 2427, recommend it for passage, and send it to the floor of the House for a vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

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House Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Committee
2012 Session
Date 1-24-12
Attachment # 3