

**Testimony of David Carttar**

**Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**

**March 7, 2024, 9:00 AM**

Dear Chair Carpenter, Committee members, and staff:

We Kansans tend to pride ourselves on the relative safety and security of our state. Part of maintaining public safety is the efficient work of our law-enforcement officers and agencies. This prospect is threatened, though, by House Bill 2803, which promises to interfere with local and state entities' ability to collaborate with federal law enforcement.

By creating a class of "law abiding citizen" who is "not otherwise precluded under state law from possessing a firearm," this bill would place some federal criminals in a netherworld where they think they are shielded by state power. Because of differences between federal and state law, this would effectively declare groups of dangerous people (such as those convicted for hate crimes) as "law abiding citizens," who believe themselves entitled to handle firearms in direct violation of federal law.

Unfortunately, HB 2803 goes even further by threatening and penalizing state and local officials who might incidentally help enforce federal gun laws that are not already duplicated in state codes. The sanctions described in this bill would harass and intimidate state and local officers of the law, placing them into direct confrontation with their colleagues at the federal level. In addition, by threatening to punish any state or local entity that hires a person who, at any time in the past, might have helped to enforce a federal gun law against an ill-defined "law abiding citizen," this bill seems to place all veterans of federal service under suspicion.

This bill's provisions run counter to the smooth functioning of law enforcement, putting the public at risk in situations where (like the chaotic Valentine's Day shooting at the Chiefs rally in Kansas City, Missouri, which killed a beloved community leader from Shawnee, Kansas) successful outcomes may depend on close interdepartmental cooperation.

Our federal system of laws naturally results in inconsistencies between state and national levels. This bill exploits such differences with the intention of making some federal laws effectively unenforceable in Kansas. This is dangerous for the public, and for state and local officials. By complicating the work of police officers, investigators, and prosecutors, HB 2803 sets Kansas up for unintentional and unknown future consequences that may be fully understood only when we cannot afford the lesson.

I strongly encourage members of the committee to vote NO on HB 2803.

Respectfully,  
David Carttar  
Lawrence, Kansas