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Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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HB 2803 Gun Rights Preservation Act
Opponent
Written Only Testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2803.

I come before you today as a resident of Kansas and proud gun owner to express my profound opposition to HB 2803, a proposal that strikes at the heart of constitutional governance and the safety of our communities in Kansas.

At the outset, let us remind ourselves of a fundamental principle enshrined in our nation's bedrock document—the Constitution. It houses the Supremacy Clause, a cornerstone that unequivocally declares *federal law as the paramount law of the land*. This isn't merely academic rhetoric but the guiding light of our judicial system, hailed by the United States Supreme Court as the "ultimate touchstone" in statutory interpretation.

The path HB 2803 seeks to tread is not uncharted. We've observed the tumultuous journey of Missouri's Second Amendment Preservation Act, an analogous legislation that, after years of costly litigation, was found to contravene the very fabric of our federal structure. It's a stark reminder that such legislative endeavors not only stand on shaky constitutional grounds but also invite inevitable legal challenges, draining taxpayer resources and diverting attention from pressing legislative needs.

Turning our gaze inward, it's crucial to recognize the pulse of Kansas itself. Recent surveys unveil a telling story: most Kansanians advocate for pragmatic gun reform. These include

- universal background checks
- minimum age requirements
- red flag laws
- a waiting period for gun purchases

These aren't just numbers; they are a clear mandate from our Kansas citizens for policies that enhance their safety, not undermine it. Yet, HB 2803 appears to sidestep this collective call for action, opting instead for a path that isolates Kansas from federal partnership in law enforcement, a partnership vital for the safety and well-being of our communities.

Moreover, the empirical evidence cannot be ignored. As Kansas has incrementally loosened its gun regulations, we've witnessed a troubling rise in gun-related fatalities—a 32% increase, to be precise. This isn't just a statistic; it's a grim reflection of lives lost and families shattered. The proliferation of school shootings in recent years only adds to the urgency of this issue. However, the ever increase of gun violence in HB 2803, far from being a solution, threatens to exacerbate this crisis, pushing us further away from the safety and security every Kansan deserves.

After Sandy Hook occurred, I had hoped legislators would step up and start to implement common sense gun laws, like those listed above, gun safety, and ban automatic and semiautomatic weapons. And now here we are over a decade later, dealing with the same gun violence in communities throughout the United States. Violence in schools, movie theaters, churches, and community gatherings like the Super Bowl Celebration Parade, and more.

Kansas needs to be an example of what to do. HB 2803 is *not the right* thing to do. Legislators are disregarding what the majority of Kansans want. HB 2803 is an affront to what the people of Kansas are voicing.

In conclusion, while the dialogue around gun rights and regulation is complex and multifaceted, the path forward must be charted with a keen eye on constitutional fidelity, public safety, and the will of our people. Unfortunately, HB 2803 fails to meet these critical benchmarks. It is our collective responsibility to seek solutions that uphold our constitutional values, protect our citizens, and reflect the voices of our communities.

I urge you to oppose HB 2803 not just as a matter of legal principle but also as a commitment to the well-being of our great state.

Please vote NO on HB 2803.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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