

March 7, 2024

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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BILL NUMBER: HB 2803 Gun Rights Preservation Act

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,
I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2803.

HB 2803 is unconstitutional and instructs Kansas law enforcement to disregard federal law. This bill will likely result in litigation, wasting time and money as a similar bill in Missouri. As such, I oppose this bill and would like to re-direct the committee to the fact that the vast majority of Kansans support common ground gun reform including background checks, 21 year old age requirement, red flag laws and a 3 day waiting period according to the *Docking Institute of Public Affairs: Kansas Speaks, Fall 2022* document.

Further, as a Kansas Mom, I am fearful that no place in Kansas is safe from gun violence as we see it regularly on the news and the recent Super Bowl Parade shooting. Isn't it the responsibility of this committee to protect Kansans and work with Federal officials to limit gun violence? Additionally, I have worked in health care my entire career. I have seen crying, distraught families outside the PICU after a shooting. I have witnessed children dying of gun shots through no fault of their own and I have seen the burden shootings take on the health care community.

The American College of Surgeons *Gun Violence Statement* says, "Firearms are now the most common cause of death for our nation's youth from the ages of 1 to 19." This statistic includes firearm related suicides and firearm related homicides.

I urge you to vote no on HB 2803. I see no benefit to the state or to our family from this legislation.

Tiffany Stepien
Kansas Resident, Mom, Health Care Worker
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