

March 7, 2024

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Kristen Blackton

Kansas Citizen

krosekauf@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2803 Gun Rights Preservation Act

OPPONENT

WRITTEN-ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

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

My family has lived in Kansas for several years, and almost all of our immediate family lives in the Kansas City metro area. As a result, some of our family members and friends were attending the Chiefs Super Bowl celebration that ended in a mass shooting, killing one Kansas citizen and wounding many others. In light of the recent gun violence that our community has experienced, I ask that you oppose HB 2803.

HB 2803 is a dangerous bill that would attempt to nullify certain federal gun laws by preventing our Kansas local law enforcement personnel from enforcing federal rules and regulations. HB 2803 does nothing to address the increasing amount of gun related deaths in our state, nor does it address the increasing problem of children having access to guns, a reality that a community in Olathe saw viscerally just a few weeks ago at one of their high schools. Rather than protect Kansans from gun violence, this bill will actually make our communities less safe as it will create confusion for local law enforcement as to which laws they should follow or ignore. My hope is that you will prioritize gun safety measures in the stead of bills like this one.

Furthermore, this bill is unconstitutional. Missouri passed a similar bill in 2021, which underwent litigation for years, costing Missouri taxpayers thousands of dollars. Eventually, a federal judge found the bill unconstitutional as the Second Amendment includes the "Supremacy Clause," which indicates that federal law preempts state law. If you intend to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer money, then years of lawsuits over a similar bill in our state would be the wrong choice.

I, along with the vast majority of Kansans, support gun safety legislation and common-sense gun reform. HB 2803 does nothing to address the gun violence we currently have in our state. I encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 2803.

Kristen Blackton

Shawnee, KS