

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

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2803. I want to begin by asking, *what makes a nice place to live?* This was a question on the minds of municipal leaders in post-civil war Dodge City. The town had become known for its danger, its gun violence. In the spirit of economic prosperity, Dodge City enacted gun laws that prohibited the carrying of firearms in city bounds, bringing families to the area, and leaving its reputation in the past. Dodge City's gun laws would stand for more than 128 years.

What makes a nice place to live? In 2006, under misguided notions that guns make us safer, Kansas passed the Personal and Family Protection Act, allowing the conceal carry of guns and voiding any countering city gun laws in effect. (It seems in this instance, a bigger government overruling a smaller government was acceptable.)

Since 2006 Kansas has steadily chipped away at its gun regulations and the state has seen a 32% increase in gun-related deaths since 2012. There have been more school shootings in Kansas in the last five years than in the last 40 years combined. Kansas is more dangerous now than in the Wild West. *What makes a nice place to live?*

We know that a vast majority of Kansans support common ground gun reform (72.3% support universal background checks, 77.9% support 21-year-old age requirement, 73.3% support red flag laws, 72.3% 3-day waiting period) and want federal officers in Kansas to be able to do their jobs and help keep our communities safe.[1] *THAT*

makes a nice a place to live.

The Kansas legislature is actively disregarding the needs and voices of their constituents. In addition, HB2803 on its face unconstitutional, unenforceable, and will instantly result in litigation—a senseless waste taxpayers' dollars and legislators' time.

In 1861, W.N. Morphy, editor of the Ford County, Ks Globe, said "An honest man attending to his own business doesn't require the constant companionship of a six-shooter to make him feel easy and safe. Indeed, there is something rotten with a man's conscience if he must walk the streets with a weapon."

I ask you to vote no on bill HB2803.

[4] *The Docking Institute of Public Affairs: Kansas Speaks Fall 2022.*

Annie Noll

Leawood, KS