

March 5th, 2024

HB 2803

Gun Rights Preservation Act/ Opposition Testimony

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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HB 2803 Gun Rights Preservation Act

Position – **Opponent**

Dear Chair & members of the committee.

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

As a career Law Enforcement professional I have spent most of my adult life protecting others. From serving our great nation in the US Marine Corp, to serving our communities in Johnson County Kansas the goal is always very clear, protecting all human beings. Throughout my career, I have seen many laws and rules created in an attempt to protect the innocent while preserving the rights of everyone. At times I have seen these concepts become blurred from interpretation from one side or the other. Sometimes those who intend on protecting the innocent, lose their focus and end up hampering the vary rules they intended to bolster. Conversely I have also seen those who propose legislation and rules intended to protect the rights of the people, become disillusioned by what protection of the peoples' rights actually mean. Neither of these parties intend on harming our Democracy but both at times do. Recognizing the harm is key in fixing the problem. I believe for the most part, our local and state representatives accomplish this goal through the democratic process in which you are apparently using to obtain opinions from your constituents. Conversely, there are still those who knowingly write bills such as this one (HB 2803) that will have little or no positive impact on protecting the safety of the community, but rather doing the opposite. I am fond of history as it often educates us on courses of action that have been tried and failed. This bill is nearly identical to a Missouri Bill (2nd Ammend.

Preservation Act) which has a goal to intimidate, obstruct and hamper the cooperation between local and State Law Enforcement and their Federal partners. By using punitive scare tactics such as monetary penalties levied against individual officers and instructing Kansas law enforcement to disregard federal law, this Bill appears to be as unconstitutional as its counterpart in Missouri. HB 2803 is poorly written, unenforceable and creates more problems for Law Enforcements' efforts to protect the community than the plethora that already exist.

I ask not only as a life- long Law Enforcement Professional but also as a Father, Grandfather, citizen of this great county of Johnson, reject this Bill by voting NO, and send a message to those who frivolously create such worthless documents that take up your precious time in discussion, that you do not welcome such Bills.

Chief Byron Roberson

Prairie Village Kansas Police Department