



CAPITAL CITY YOUNG REPUBLICANS

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

Rep. Will Carpenter, Chair

Rep. Tom Kessler, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

9:00 AM

Room 346-S

TESTIMONY ARE IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR5020

Chairman Carpenter, Vice Chairman Kessler, Members of the Committee -

In the run up to its ratification in 1791, during the framing of our nation's Bill of Rights, our forefathers labored over every single word as they put pen to paper. They did so to the end of ensuring that our nation would be one of succinctly written, and clearly defined individual liberties. The proposed amendment outlined in HCR5020 serves as a reminder of our forebears intent, and reaffirms their assertion that the second amendment rights of the people shall not be infringed. By explicitly acknowledging this right in our state constitution, and including with it broad protections of supplementary firearm-adjacent items, we are ensuring that Kansas will remain a state wherein law-abiding citizens can exercise their natural and inherent rights without fear of unconstitutional regulation.

This amendment reflects a uniquely Kansan commitment to preserving individual liberties and acknowledging the natural and fundamental nature of the right to bear arms. This amendment offers us a unique opportunity to bolster this right by stating that any restriction on this right will be subject to the strict scrutiny standard. By doing this, we would be setting a high standard in safeguarding against unlawful limitations. Therefore, before you today is an issue of critical importance. To that end, we urge you, Committee, to push this on to your colleagues on the floor, and give this measure the opportunity to have the referendum it deserves.

Best regards,

William J. Hendrix

Chairman, Capital City Young Republicans