

**January 20, 2024**

**Re: NSSF Support for HCR 5020; Constitutional Right to Arms Amendment**

Dear House Federal and State Affairs Committee Members:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearm industry trade association, I am writing to express strong support for HCR 5020. This proposed bolstering of the existing constitutional provision protecting the people's right to arms is unfortunately necessary in today's political and cultural landscape.

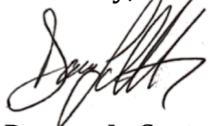
Those who seek to disarm law-abiding Americans and render them entirely dependent upon the state for their security are never at a loss for creative ways to go about doing their troubling work. Many have begrudgingly accepted that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and dozens of state constitutions actually mean what they say and protect a right of the people. In light of this, they have transferred their energies to making constitutionally protected firearms as ineffective for their intended purposes as possible. Whether it is restrictions on magazine capacity, adjustable stocks, or ammunition performance or availability, they continue their march. This proposed amendment strengthens defenses against these efforts.

The language in HCR 5020 that clarifies the right to arms is a "natural and fundamental right" is appealing for many reasons. Significantly, it informs the public and future generations that the right to arms was not *given* to us by the founding fathers or any other group of individuals. It is a preexisting right that was simply enshrined in the foundational documents of our country and most states.

Finally, directing that any restrictions imposed on the right to arms must survive the strict scrutiny standard of judicial review is a simple message to the courts – this fundamental right should not be treated with less care than other fundamental rights, no matter how disfavored it may become within the elite classes.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter that promises to serve Kansans well for generations to come. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Darren LaSorte