

Testimony of Adrienne Newlin

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

January 23, 2023, 9:00AM

Good afternoon Chairman Carpenter, Committee members, and staff. Thank you for acknowledging my testimony today.

My name is Adrienne Newlin. I am a mom of two teenage boys, a small business owner and have been a resident of Kansas since 1994. I went to high school in Olathe - and lost a classmate at Olathe North to gun violence.

I am testifying today because HCR 5020 is a dangerous resolution that poses a direct threat to Kansas public safety laws that protect our communities by keeping guns out of the hands of people who we all agree shouldn't have them.

Given the Olathe East incident two years ago, the shooting inside Crown Center just a week ago and countless other tragedies in our state and across the country, why on earth would you be working to make gun laws more lenient?? How does this protect Kansans?

Kansas suffers gun violence rates above the national average and yet you want to put weapons and accessories into the hands of the wrong people? To make laws more lenient? 60 percent of women killed by an intimate partner in Kansas were killed by guns. Do your research. Who is this amendment helping? Certainly not the people of Kansas.

This bill poses several significant concerns. If adopted, strict scrutiny would threaten to eliminate Kansas's most crucial public safety laws, including:

- **Prohibition on Gun Possession by Convicted Felons:** After strict scrutiny amendments passed in Louisiana and Missouri, convicted felons challenged state laws that prohibit felons from possessing firearms. At least one lower court found that Louisiana's law prohibiting felons from having guns was unconstitutional. Fortunately, the Louisiana Supreme Court reversed this ruling.
- **Prohibitions on Gun Possession by Domestic Abusers:** In Louisiana, after strict scrutiny passed, a convicted domestic abuser challenged the constitutionality of a state law prohibiting possession of a firearm by people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes. Strict scrutiny laws make state taxpayers fund the flow of lawsuits brought by criminal defendants.
- The Missouri State Auditor determined that Louisiana's strict scrutiny law led to "significant time, effort, and expenditures by Louisiana's public defenders and district attorney's offices," imposing "significant workload and related costs on the Louisiana government." The auditor projected that a strict scrutiny law in Missouri would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

I encourage members of the committee to **vote NO on House Resolution 5020**.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today.

Adrienne Newlin, Overland Park, KS