

Mr. Chairman, and honorable members of the committee.

My name is Richard Condon. I am a proud citizen of the United States of America and a proponent of this bill.

I am a resident of Douglas County, Kansas, and a serving and highly decorated law enforcement officer in Johnson County, Kansas. I am a veteran of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and was deployed to the Former Republic of Yugoslavia in the late 90s as part of the stabilization force. As a member of British Diplomatic Security teams, I spent over three years in Afghanistan before taking on the role of private security contractor where I plied my trade in Iraq and off the coast of Somalia. I then five years protecting Fortune 500 high-net-worth individuals and their families from targeted violence.

No, I am not James Bond. What I am is a guardian. I have spent three decades protecting people who were unable to protect themselves, and I have seen first-hand what happens to a society when its rights are taken away from them.

Given the time restrictions, I have broken my testimony into two categories:

1. The inclusion of the words "shall not be infringed."
2. Firearm accessories/components.

Simply put, the term "**shall not be infringed**" is insurmountable and based on the idea that the Second Amendment was intentionally designed to protect an **individual right** of such importance that it cannot be easily compromised. The interpretation is that any infringement on the right to bear arms is unconstitutional. My research also shows that nearly every state in the United States has the phrase "shall not be infringed" included in their state constitution when referring to the right to bear arms.

Firearm accessories/components is a broad description encompassing anything that can go in or on a firearm. I will focus on the first item that comes to my mind: a suppressor. Yes, I said suppressor and not silencer because, unlike the movies, it does not silence a gunshot, it reduces the decibel level ensuring the shooter and the people around them do not have unnecessary hearing damage. Having personally been involved in an incident in Afghanistan where I was unable to put on ear protection before using my rifle, I suffered permanent hearing damage. Suppressors are a game changer and should not be subject to draconian restrictions.

As an elected body tasked with protecting the rights of its citizens, I believe your focus should be to move away from marshaling lawful gun enthusiasts and target the illegal use of firearms by society's criminal elements. I know for a fact that members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua are in Kansas. These gang members are known for their vicious and brutal tactics, giving no consideration to our laws or law enforcement. Swift and decisive legal action against **criminal firearm possession** should be your priority.

On that point, as a law enforcement officer, when I pull a car over, my fear of not going home to my son is from someone illegally carrying a firearm rather than someone legally exercising their Second Amendment right. One has everything to lose; the other has done nothing wrong.

As a business owner, I also go into people's homes and train them to respond to a home invasion. Ninety percent of my clients are women who want to know how to protect themselves and their children. Empowering these women is an honor for me, and I know that in a fight-or-flight situation, proficiency in the use of a firearm can be the difference between life or death. I also encourage homeowners to use a suppressed firearm because of the confined spaces they will be fighting in.

I urge you to vote in favor of this proposition to protect ourselves, our children, and our children's children.

Thank you for your time.