

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 5006 on behalf of the Kansas State Rifle Association (KSRA) which has over 3,000 active members. KSRA strongly supports this Constitutional Amendment.

My name is Megan Hilbish and I'm from Emporia. I'm currently the KSRA Executive Director and Lobbyist. I'm also a certified firearms instructor and a professional competitive shooter. I have represented the United States of America in the World Championships, and I understand the importance of our individual right to bear arms including the necessary right to purchase and possess firearm-related accessories, ammunition and components. All of these are essential to being able to exercise our right to keep and bear arms.

KSRA and I sincerely believe that this is a "natural and fundamental right" and "this right shall not be infringed" as stated in this House Concurrent Resolution. We fully support "that any restrictions on such right [should be] subject to the strict scrutiny standard."

Firearms are designed to expel a projectile or bullet through the barrel after the squeezing of a trigger which releases the firing pin and causes expanding gas that then forces the bullet out of the cartridge shell casing and down the barrel often at great speeds. This would not be possible without ammunition. Firearms require ammunition to be able to be safely fired or discharged. Therefore, we firmly believe it ought to be a constitutional right to purchase and posse ammunition.

Additionally, firearm components and accessories such as magazines, sights or optical scopes are necessary to properly and safely shoot firearms. We view firearms as a tool that can be used in many different valuable and impressive ways. Firearms can be used for personal safety and self-defense, competitive sport, education, historical lessons and reenactments, hunting and providing food for yourself and your family, teaching and empowering others, and fun and enjoyment. It is important to be able to purchase and posse the required components and accessories needed to be able to do this. It is the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

We urge the Committee to act swiftly to approve HCR 5006 and to send it to the full legislature for consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I am glad to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Megan Hilbish*