

**MORIAH DAY**

Director, Government Relations - State Affairs

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400 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 475, Washington, D.C. 20001

February 5, 2025

Re: NSSF Support for HCR 5006; Constitutional Right to Arms Amendment

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the firearm industry trade association, I am writing to express strong support for HCR 5006. While you will likely hear many arguments to the contrary, this proposed bolstering of our state's existing constitutional protections of the right to keep and bear arms is unfortunately a necessary step for this body to take. If today's political and cultural landscape is any indication, outrageous attacks on our cherished freedoms and the industry that makes their exercise possible are far from over.

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. While most 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, that doesn't mean they've lessened their attacks. Many have simply 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, specific categories of firearms, or ammunition performance or availability, they continue their march. This proposed amendment strengthens the ability of Kansans to combat these efforts when restrictions are inevitably attempted here.

The language in HCR 5006 clarifying that 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 those of most states.

Finally, directing that any restrictions imposed on the right to arms under state law 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 among those in power in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I urge you to protect the rights of Kansans for generations to come by passing HCR 5006 and giving voters an opportunity to further guard their liberties in the text of the Kansas Constitution.

Sincerely,

Moriah Day