

February 3, 2025

## Testimony to House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**

TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**

BILL NUMBER: **HCR 5006, A PROPOSITION to amend Section 4 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the state of Kansas to recognize the right to bear arms as a natural and fundamental right; clarifying that such right includes the possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories and firearm components; making restrictions on such right subject to strict scrutiny.**

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: **Opponent**

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: **Written Only**

Dear Chair Kessler and Members of the Committee,

For years, ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council) has pushed legislatures across the country to explicitly define the right to bear arms as a fundamental right. What HCR 5006 proposes would mandate that any restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms be subject to strict scrutiny — the highest standard of judicial review — and explicitly include accessories, ammunition, and firearm components under this expanded constitutional protection.

But here's the thing, the KS Constitution already protects the right to bear arms and "common sense" Kansans have long been consistent in saying these rights are **not** absolute. They exist, rather, in delicate balance with other inalienable rights.

Fundamental human rights, such as life, liberty, and free expression, are understood to be pre-political — meaning they exist as a matter of humanity, not because of a government grant. Gun rights, on the other hand, have historically been seen as instrumental, a means to protect life or liberty yes, but not inalienable. They are derivative, existing in service of other fundamental rights. Even the US Supreme Court has ruled that rights come with responsibilities — affirmed again in the 2022 Bruen opinion (by a conservative majority) — and written with deference for the historical traditions of firearm regulation.

The Kansas Constitution grants this right to arms as a legal protection, not a non-negotiable right like life or liberty. The last time we broadened this protection in 2010, it was clearly a political decision, reinforcing a right defined by law and not by natural human dignity.

No other right, including the right to own guns, should override the most basic right: to live safely. Vote NO on HCR 5006; end your perennial effort to destabilize Kansas.



Leslie D. Mark

Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7

M-V

**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Tara Myers

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen; Pediatric nurse for 23 years

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [tcfmvers@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfmvers@yahoo.com)

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers, as well as, limit the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices.

Kansans suffer gun violence at rates above the national average. As a pediatric nurse for over 23 years and a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for 16 years, it is abhorrent that **guns are now the leading cause of death in children in Kansas!** I have seen firsthand the effects of gun violence on children.

Pediatric care providers, parents, grandparents and even hunters and other gun owners want laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. Conversely, this amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Kansans want to be safe and we owe it to our children to keep them safe from gun violence either as a victim or a witness! I ask you to vote no on HCR 5006 for this reason.

Thank you,

Tara Myers  
Shawnee, Kansas

The House Committee on Fed/State

Date: February 3, 2025

Name: Carla Oppenheimer, Grandparents for Gun Safety

Email: [coppenheimer@kc.rr.com](mailto:coppenheimer@kc.rr.com)

Bill Number: HCR 5006

Proponent, Opponent, or Neutral: **Opponent**

Oral or Written Only Testimony: **Written Only**

Dear Chair Kessler & Members of the Committee,

I write today voicing my opposition to bill HCR 5006 proposing a constitutional amendment to amend section 4 of the Kansas bill of rights to recognize the right to bear arms as a fundamental right that includes the possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories and firearm components, and that any restrictions on such right are subject to the strict scrutiny standard.

HCR 5006 is unnecessary and redundant as the right to bear arms is already a fundamental right under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. We have enough tragedies with gun deaths in Kansas without adding another law concerning guns and ammunition. Every year, an average of 318 people die by gun suicide and 31 are wounded by gun suicide attempts in Kansas. We have the 18<sup>th</sup> highest rate of gun suicide attempts in the US. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among children and teens in Kansas. An average of 50 children and teens die by guns each year, of which 48 percent of those deaths are suicides and 49 percent homicides. Adding this law to the books emboldens people to purchase more guns and ammunition when we already own too many guns. An estimated 48.9% of Kansas adults have a firearm in their homes.

We do not need a constitutional amendment in Kansas regarding firearms because the Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. The Supreme Court ruled in McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010) that the Second Amendment applies to states and local governments. The Court also held that the right to bear arms is incorporated into the states through the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

I object to applying the strict scrutiny standard to any challenges to this proposed law. The strict scrutiny standard is the highest level of review a court can use to evaluate gun laws. It would give gun rights the same level of protection as freedom of speech and religion. Strict scrutiny could invalidate current gun laws that restrict access to guns for felons and domestic abusers, and give gun rights the same level of protection as freedom of speech and religion. The Supreme Court has refused to endorse the application of strict scrutiny to gun regulations. In fact, in 2022, the Supreme Court refused to apply intermediate and strict scrutiny in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen. Kansas does not need to amend our constitution to include a law that we already have as citizens of the United State and residents of the state of Kansas.

Please vote no on HCR 5006 to amend the Kansas constitution.

Thank you, Carla Oppenheimer,  
*Learwood, Kansas HD 20 /Sen 11*

**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Claudia Patrick

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** cpatrick9501

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it: doesn't specify what ammunition is, which could lead to armour piecing ammo being used on law enforcement. As a wife of a sheriff's deputy, I fear this could potentially put my husbands' life in danger more than it already is. You say you support first responders by voting against this bill, you can show your support.

Not only is the ammunition clause a problem, but this bill could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers. This bills also limits the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices which will threaten public safety and exposes the state (and taxpayer dollars) to lawsuits from convicted criminals.

For these reasons, I implore you to vote No on HCR 5006.

Claudia Patrick  
Bonner Springs

**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Kelsey Ploeger

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** kelsevploeger@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it could limit the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices.

Kansans suffer gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas. Parents, grandparents and even hunters and other gun owners want laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. Conversely, this amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on its impact: it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.

I implore to vote no on HCR 5006.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Ploeger  
Roeland Park, KS

Dr. Carl Reed, Manhattan

cm\_reed@cox.net

Bill Number HCR 5006

OPPOSE

Written testimony only:

Members of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I'm writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006.

It is unnecessary because the second amendment of the US Constitution already provides the right to keep and bear arms.

It provides additional legal support to the one-half of the US population that perpetrates all the gun crimes and violence, that is, gun owners. It does nothing for the one-half of the US population that does not perpetrate gun violence, that is, citizens that do not have guns.

This irresponsible legislation will immediately be challenged in court, causing the state to incur unnecessary expenses.

Testimony of Monica Scheibmeir

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

February 3, 2025

Dear Chairperson Carpenter and Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to all the various view on HCR 5006. I was born and educated in Kansas. I have lived in a variety of other states/regions within the US, but I chose to raise my family here in Kansas. My experiences in living in other cities and states provides a strong base for understanding how state level regulations can have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of its citizens. That is why I am asking you to oppose HCR 5006 in this legislative session.

The safety of all Kansans is important, especially when it comes to preventing gun violence. Firearms are the leading method of suicide in Kansas. As a veteran, I understand my duty to protect my fellow veterans from inflicting lethal force to themselves as they reintegrate into civilian life. As a mother and a grandmother, I want the workplaces where my adult children work to be free of gun violence. I want K-12 and higher educational settings to be free from unnecessary gun violence. I do not want to spend each day of the school year wondering if my grandchildren or the children living in my neighborhood will make it home safely.

The language in HCR 5006 as it relates to strict scrutiny, threatens the basis for Kansas's public safety laws. HCR 5006 is a dangerous resolution. I am encouraging all members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee to vote NO on HCR 5006.

Respectfully,

Dr. Monica Scheibmeir

Topeka, Kansas

**Testimony provided to  
House Federal and State Affair Committee of the Kansas Legislature  
For Hearing February 5, 2025, HCR5006**

By: L. Stephen (Steve) Schmidt, 102 W Prairie Lakes Drive, Heston, KS 67062, an individual  
testifying in his own behalf:

I want to let the Committee know that I am in full support of HCR5006.

Clearly, the right to keep and bear arms is meaningless if one is not permitted to possess  
and use those things that are needed to maintain a firearm and make it functional such as  
ammunition, firearm accessories, and firearm components. Clarifying that the right to  
keep and bear arms includes those things is appropriate and needed in my opinion.

I do ask that you consider whether lines 19, 20, and 21 of page one of the draft bill should  
be modified to read:

19 “...any other lawful purpose, *and such right includes the **purchase**, possession*  
20 *and use of ammunition, firearm accessories and firearm*  
21 *components*; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous

Of course, this change would need to be reflected throughout the rest of the draft bill on  
page 2:

3 **purchase**, possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories and

11 infringed and clarify that the right includes the **purchase**, possession

Possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories, and firearm components is  
meaningless if, through whatever means, persons are not allowed to purchase such items.

Thank you for considering my viewpoints.



**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** David Schnackenberg

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** davidschnack86@yahoo.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** WRITTEN

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it:

- Could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers
- Limit the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices
- Threatens public safety
- Exposes the state (and taxpayer dollars) to lawsuits from convicted criminals

Gun violence in Kansas is a serious issue—our state experiences rates higher than the national average, and tragically, firearms are now the leading cause of death among kids and teens here. As a parent of young children, we all want commonsense laws that keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

HCR 5006 threatens that safety by making it easier for convicted felons and domestic abusers to obtain firearms. This isn't just a theoretical risk—other states that passed similar amendments saw lawsuits from convicted felons and abusers demanding gun access. We cannot afford to take that chance in Kansas.

Protecting the Second Amendment and keeping our communities safe are not mutually exclusive. We can and should enforce reasonable gun laws that prevent violent criminals from easily obtaining deadly weapons.

Let's stand up for our families, our neighborhoods, and our future. **Vote NO on HCR 5006.**

David Schnackenberg  
Olathe, KS

**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Kaitlyn Schnackenberg

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** kaitlyn.jones1231@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it threatens public safety. It also limits the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices.

Kansans suffer gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas. Parents, grandparents and even hunters and other gun owners want laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. As the mother of two small children, ages three and four, I am terrified. We taught our children a family code word. We practice with them on what to do if mom or dad ever say that special word. They practice staying completely still, being totally silent, and running as fast as they can in a zig-zag line. We've told them that this is only to be used in an emergency, likely with a gun, which now they are beginning to understand. We're weighing explaining unthinkable things to a small child vs. keeping them alive in what seems inevitable.

I am five feet tall, 110 pounds. I am the one out and about with them, interacting with our community day to day. Reality is that I cannot pick them both up at the same time and run. We are sitting ducks. I practice this with them, knowing that we very well may have to use it.

Would you like to help us answer their latest questions? We're stumped, and heartbroken. "What happens if I get hit with a bullet? Will I get a dinosaur band aid, momma?"

Conversely, this amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Gun rights are already well protected within the Kansas Bill of Rights. We can agree, convicted felons and those found to be a danger to self or others should not own guns. However, when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued the state for access to guns. This amendment could limit local and state law enforcement's ability to do their job: they would not be able to intervene if violent criminals are in possession of federally illegal devices. This amendment jeopardizes public safety on the taxpayers' dime as states mount defenses against suits from convicted criminals. 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.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on its impact: it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.

Please vote no on HCR 5006.

Kaitlyn Schnackenberg  
Kansas Citizen  
Olathe

February 3, 2025  
Bill: HCR 5006  
Proponent Written Testimony Only  
Conferee: Mary Stang  
Representing: Self

To Whom This May Concern, Chairman Kessler and Committee Members,

My name is Mary Stang and I am a lifelong resident of Sedgwick County. I am writing this testimony as a proponent to HCR 5006. I am a strong supporter and advocate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and the two work hand in hand. "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." These words state it all and they are very clear. There should be no law allowed that goes against this amendment in any way shape of form. This also includes anything that has to do with a firearm such as ammunition, bump stocks, etc. This also should cover a well trained and regulated militia as being necessary to the security of a free State. It is volunteer and kept during peace times and no pay unless called upon by the state during times of unrest. We need to stand strong on this bill and any bill that has to do with the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mary Stang  
A Proud American and a Proud Lifelong Resident of Kansas, Mom and Grandma

February 5, 2025 Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Lindsay A Stephenson

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: [practicewithlinday@gmail.com](mailto:practicewithlinday@gmail.com)

BILL NUMBER: HCR 5006 OPPONENT WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it threatens public safety and expands gun access to dangerous individuals.

Gun violence in Kansas exceeds the national average, with firearms being the leading cause of death among children and teenagers in the state. It is important to have responsible gun owners and support laws that prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands. This amendment could enable convicted felons and domestic abusers to legally obtain guns, putting the safety of Kansans at risk. This concern is not theoretical; in other states with similar amendments, convicted felons and domestic abusers have pursued legal action to gain firearm access.

I have a special passion for common sense gun legislation, as my husband was impacted by the shooting at Olathe East High School a few years ago. It is important to me that guns are protected by responsible laws to keep our schools and work places safe.

Kansas can uphold Second Amendment rights while ensuring that firearms do not end up in the hands of those who pose a threat to public safety. Implementing and enforcing sensible gun laws can help prevent unnecessary violence and protect our communities. Weakening these protections only increases the risk of harm by making deadly weapons more accessible to criminals and individuals who may pose a danger to themselves or others.

I urge you to reject HCR 5006 and instead support measures that protect all Kansans from preventable gun violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsay Stephenson  
Edwardsville, Kansas



The Heller Foundation  
P.O. Box 15496  
Washington, D.C. 20003

February 2, 2025

The Honorable Representative Will Carpenter  
Chair, House Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chair Representative Will Carpenter, Vice Chair Representative Tom Kessler, Ranking Minority Member Representative Jo Ella Hoyer and distinguished members of Kansas House Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

**The Heller Foundation** strongly **SUPPORTS** Kansas HB 2052, HCR 5006 and HB 2104 and encourages all elected officials vote **'YES'** on these constitutional bills being heard this week.

Prima facie, **The Heller Foundation** is a 501 c (3) non-profit, non-partisan educational organization headquartered in our nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. The Heller Foundation is a grassroots movement of Americans focused on education and fighting for our God-given, Constitutionally-entrenched, human right to bear arms. The Heller Foundation was founded in 2008 by **Dick Heller**, the lead- plaintiff in the landmark United States Supreme Court decision, *D.C. v Heller*. **Rolling Stone Magazine** deems **Dick Heller** 'the Godfather of the Second Amendment' and, rightfully so, as Heller is the Founder and Executive Director at *The Heller Foundation*.

Fundamentally, Justice Antonin Scalia's majority opinion in ***District of Columbia v. Heller***, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) set binding precedent as it was the first time in history that the Second Amendment was under the microscope by the United States Supreme Court. Noted by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, the *Heller* decision affirmed that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms- unconnected with service in a militia- for traditionally lawful purposes, such as within the home and for self-defense.

1. First and foremost, The Heller Foundation and Dick Heller urges all elected members of the Kansas State Legislature to SUPPORT HB2052 to assure Kansas residents are not disenfranchised from their God-given, Constitutionally entrenched human right to self-defense protected by the Second Amendment and affirmed in the landmark 2008 *D.C. vs Heller* United States Supreme Court's binding precedent. Under current Kansas State law, *inter alia*, individuals are by law ineligible to transition to the state's standard 'concealed carry license' upon turning 21 years of age as the four-year provisional license must expire first in order to apply for eligibility to the standard license. We urge the committee members to vote 'YES' in **SUPPORT of Kanas House Bill 2052** in order for individuals within that four year 'window' of ineligibly (now, per the law as written) and avoid disenfranchising their Second Amendment rights through allowing individuals to update their 'provisional license to concealed carry a firearm' to the 'standard license to concealed carry a firearm' immediately upon turning 21 years old, respectively.
2. Second, The Heller Foundation demands your **SUPPORT** of Kansas **HCR5006** in order to align with the rights protected by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as be in compliance with the precedent set by the United States Supreme Court in both the *Heller* decision and the *Bruen* decision. Dick Heller and The Heller Foundation urge your unanimous 'YES' vote to Kansas HCR5006 in order to amend and later codify the Kansas State Constitution's Bill of Rights extension to protect ammunition and firearms accessories. In compliance with *Heller*, **supporting Kansas HCR5006** is a direct representation of your sworn oath to represent your constituents and any restrictions on the new amendment to the State Constitution to either ammunition or firearms accessories would be subject to incredibly strict scrutiny.
3. Finally, The Heller Foundation **SUPPORTS Kansas HB2104** and urges the Committee to vote 'YES' as it will be saving lives through standardizing firearms safety education in schools throughout the Sunflower State. We demand your unwavering support of this essential, necessary education in schools in order to potentially aid in decreasing accidental injuries and/or death by firearms in homes. According to an August 12, 2024 empirical study conducted by the United States Department of Education, Safety plays a significant role in promoting mental health amongst students. A secure environment- both in school and a home- is essential for reducing stress and anxiety, allowing for students to feel more relaxed and supported, earn better grades, get higher test scores and improve the students' overall academic performance and morale. (Sources: [www.corporateeducation.org](http://www.corporateeducation.org); [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)) Passing HB2104 would help prevent gun violence in Kansas schools and at-home due to the strong likelihood of a students' parents both being otherwise responsible gun owners.

Consequently, *The Heller Foundation* **SUPPORTS** all three pro-gun bills being heard this week in the Kansas House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, including **SUPPORTING: HB2052, HCR5006 and HB2104.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristie J. Tertel*

Kristie J. Tertel  
National Director of Legislative Policy,  
The Heller Foundation  
T: (610) 442- 4628  
W: [www.HellerFoundation.org](http://www.HellerFoundation.org)



**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Amanda Winch

**TITLE:** Parent, Life-long resident of KS

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** amanda.winch@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** WRITTEN-ONLY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

My name is Amanda Winch, and I am a lifelong Kansan and a parent of young children. I am here today to voice my strong opposition to HCR 5006. As a citizen who values both responsible gun ownership and public safety, I believe this proposal is unnecessary, fiscally irresponsible, and potentially dangerous for the future of our state.

One of my primary concerns is the significant financial burden this bill would impose on Kansas taxpayers. Strict scrutiny laws have a proven history of inviting a flood of legal challenges, forcing the state to expend substantial resources defending its existing laws. We have seen this play out in Louisiana, where the Missouri State Auditor determined that Louisiana's strict scrutiny law resulted in immense time, effort, and expenditures for public defenders and district attorneys. The auditor's analysis projected that if a similar measure were enacted in Missouri, taxpayers there would ultimately be on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars in legal costs. Kansas cannot afford to follow this costly and reckless path.

Furthermore, this measure is entirely unnecessary. Gun rights are already well protected in the Kansas Bill of Rights. Enacting HCR 5006 would not enhance these protections but would instead open the door to unintended consequences. Kansas' current gun safety laws could be challenged and potentially struck down, creating uncertainty and instability in our legal system. The result would be not only a wasteful and costly wave of litigation but also the potential erosion of basic, common-sense public safety measures that protect our communities.

As a parent, I want my children—and all future generations—to grow up in a state where they can feel safe. HCR 5006 does nothing to make Kansas safer; instead, it puts our state at risk for increased gun violence and legal chaos. I urge this committee to consider the long-term consequences of this resolution and reject it in the interest of fiscal responsibility, public safety, and the well-being of all Kansans.

Please vote NO on HCR 5006.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Winch  
Overland Park, KS

**February 5, 2025**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Erin Woods

**TITLE:** private citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** ewoods999@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006.

The Kansas Bill of Rights already provides protections for law abiding gun owners. This amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans.

HCR 5006 also exposes the state to lawsuits from convicted criminals, on the taxpayer's dime. When similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

With Kansans suffering gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns being the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas, the legislature should be looking for ways to curb gun violence in Kansas, not making it easier for dangerous individuals to possess deadly weapons.

Please vote no on HCR 5006.

HCR5006 Proponent Written Only Testimony

Chairman Kessler and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 5006, which proposes an amendment to the Kansas Constitution to recognize the right to keep and bear arms as a natural and fundamental right. This amendment ensures that Kansans' right to bear arms is protected in the Constitution, including the possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories, and firearm components.

By applying the strict scrutiny standard to any potential restrictions, this amendment would guarantee that any law infringing on this fundamental right must be subject to the highest level of scrutiny, protecting the freedoms of Kansas citizens.

This resolution represents a clear and important step in safeguarding the rights of Kansans and ensuring that our Constitution reflects the values of self-defense, individual liberty, and responsible firearm ownership.

I urge the committee to support this resolution and submit it to the voters for their approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sue  
Vosburgh  
Sedgwick County Precinct Committee Person