

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aaron Nathan. I am here in support of House Bill 2379, as a Kansas resident, firefighter, paramedic, and gun owner.

I'm speaking today because this bill could save lives — lives like my cousin Donna's. Donna purchased a handgun just minutes before she used it to end her life. She struggled with bipolar disorder and severe mood swings, but in that moment of crisis, she had nothing standing between her and a fatal decision.

I've served as a firefighter and paramedic in Kansas for over ten years, and I've seen many suicides — almost all involving guns. I also lost my grandfather Rob and uncle Bill to suicide. All three of my family members had bipolar disorder.

As a gun owner, I want to stress that this bill does not take rights away from anyone. It simply gives people the power to voluntarily protect themselves when they know they might be at risk. People can be completely rational one day and in deep crisis the next — this bill lets them plan ahead to keep themselves safe.

I urge you to support HB 2379. It's a common-sense, voluntary tool that could prevent other families from experiencing the kind of loss mine has.

Thank you.  
Aaron Nathan