

Mr. Don Denton Turley  
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The Honorable Tom Kessler (Chair)  
Kansas State Legislature  
Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

To the Kansas Legislators of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

I am writing to express my support for HB 2501, *providing for immunity from civil liability to federal firearms licensees for returning a firearm to the firearm owner at the termination of a firearm hold*. On behalf of myself, Up in Arms Kansas, and other members of The Armory Project (TAP) voluntary firearm storage program, we are writing to express our strong support for expanding The Armory Project (TAP) voluntary firearm storage program and for establishing the statutory civil liability protections necessary to make this initiative fully viable across Kansas.

When I was first approached by Johnson County Mental Health representatives about becoming a partner in the TAP program, we discussed many of the potential pitfalls of a program involving the voluntary, temporary storage of firearms for people who were facing a personal crisis. Once we had discussed how state and federal law viewed the process and how it would have to be handled, the question of liability came into focus.

Everything that the participants of TAP have in their hearts is the safety of our at-risk citizens. I believe in the sanctity of the value of life and an individual's right of agency. This program allows me to give individual Kansans another venue to seek help in a moment of crisis. As an individual and working for a Federal Firearms License (FFL) retailer, I would like to see legal protections put into state law to allow me to do this with less risk to myself and my employer.

In my fifteen years as a firearms dealer, I have personally sold firearms that I later found out were used for harm. I will admit that those rare instances still live in my mind, not as a reminder of personal guilt, but as a reminder that anyone I deal with is an individual with agency and is free to make their own decisions. As such, I have no problems stepping up and putting an end to a transaction that I feel is enabling an individual to open a path to making a bad decision. Each of us behind a counter is a gatekeeper in keeping all Kansans safe from themselves and each other. Please consider supporting us and protecting us in our stations in our society.

Everyone experiences crisis in their lives. Personal, financial, and professional distress can come at any time. This program aims to create time and distance between a victim of these temporary problems and a less-than-optimal permanent outcome. Please allow us to do what we can as forward, front-line, public-facing, boots-on-the-ground concerned citizens to confidently have those discussions with people and offer them alternatives without any destructive repercussions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please see how this program protects the state, county, and local governments' money, time, and trauma. Each individual that falls victim to poor decisions sends a trauma wave throughout our society, and this one simple act of protection helps keep us all safe. Please give serious consideration to your support for HB 2501, *providing for immunity from civil liability to federal firearms licensees for returning a firearm to the firearm owner at the termination of a firearm hold.*

Respectfully,

Don Denton Turley  
Up in Arms Kansas