

I am the father of a son who died by suicide with a gun. I know the devastating impact this has on his family, including his spouse, his son, his siblings, and his parents. It is crucial that we do all we can to separate vulnerable people from lethal means, especially guns which have a high rate of lethality.

Allowing protection from liability would encourage retailers and other partners to participate in storage programs. Please support this legislation. Below is a statement from Johnson County mental health to augment my statement.

- In 2025, firearms were involved in approximately 60% of suicide deaths in Kansas and Johnson County, underscoring the urgent need for practical prevention strategies like The Armory Project.
- Research shows that a suicide attempt often happens within five to 10 minutes of the decision to act. Providing voluntary, temporary firearm storage is an evidence-based approach to reducing suicide risk by creating time and distance between someone experiencing a mental health crisis and a firearm.
- This legislation removes a significant legal concern for Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) in Kansas, allowing more retailers to participate and expanding access across communities.
- Increasing voluntary firearm storage options, especially through trusted partners like local firearm retailers, honors personal choice and Second Amendment rights, while also strengthening suicide prevention efforts and saving lives.

Sincerely,
Stephen Kunz M.D