

Mr. Ry q Farnow

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The Honorable Tom Kessler (Chair)

Kansas State Legislature

Committee on Federal and State Affairs

State Capitol

Topeka, KS 66612

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

I am writing as a Kansas constituent, a Federal Firearms Licensee, and a participant in The Armory Project voluntary firearm storage program to express my support for HB 2501.

HB 2501 addresses a real and practical issue faced by firearms retailers who are willing to help people during moments of personal crisis. Voluntary, temporary firearm storage is one of the few tools available that allows individuals to create space between themselves and a potentially irreversible decision—without court orders, mandates, or the involvement of law enforcement. However, without clear civil liability protections, many FFLs are understandably hesitant to participate.

When Johnson County mental health professionals first approached me about joining The Armory Project, our conversations were careful and candid. We worked through how temporary storage could be handled in compliance with both state and federal law, and how to do so responsibly and ethically. While the mechanics of storage were workable, the lack of legal clarity surrounding liability—particularly at the point when a firearm is returned to its lawful owner—remained a significant concern.

Those of us who have chosen to participate in this program have done so for one reason: preventing harm while respecting individual rights. I believe deeply in personal agency, but I also believe that moments of crisis deserve compassion, options, and time. This program allows

firearm retailers like myself to be part of the solution rather than standing on the sidelines out of fear of legal exposure.

Over my years in the firearms industry, I have learned that those of us behind the counter already shoulder serious responsibility. We routinely make judgment calls, refuse sales when something feels wrong, and intervene when we believe a transaction could lead to harm. HB 2501 acknowledges that reality and supports responsible behavior instead of punishing it.

Crisis is not rare. It can affect anyone—regardless of background, profession, or beliefs. Providing a lawful, voluntary way to temporarily store firearms creates breathing room during those moments. Civil liability protections are not about avoiding accountability; they are about ensuring that people who step forward to help are not placed in jeopardy for doing the right thing.

By supporting HB 2501, the Legislature can encourage responsible participation, reduce preventable tragedy, and spare families, communities, and governments from the far-reaching consequences of irreversible decisions made during temporary distress.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 2501 and for policies that empower Kansans to help one another safely and responsibly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryq Farnow

Proprietor

Up In Arms Kansas

De Soto, Kansas