



January 24, 2026

Dear Kansas Legislators:

I am writing to provide expert analysis of House Bill 2501. As Co-Founder and Co-Director of The Armory Project, I am providing context to the House and Federal Affairs Committee for how the proposed bill will help remove a major barrier to firearm retailers temporarily and voluntarily storing firearms for Veterans and other firearm owners in need. I offer my specialized knowledge to help the committee understand the implications of the proposed bill. I am not taking a position on whether the bill should pass or not.

The Armory Project is a suicide prevention initiative that facilitates temporary and voluntary out-of-home storage to reduce firearm suicides. An important goal of temporary and voluntary out-of-home firearm storage is to create time and distance between a person at risk of suicide and their firearm.

We began in Louisiana with 3 firearm retailers who were willing to provide storage for any individual who is experiencing a mental health or suicidal crisis and wants to get their firearms out of the home. These 3 retailers were willing to provide storage despite their concerns about the potential for being sued if they stored firearms for an individual, returned the firearms to the original owner, and that person subsequently harmed themselves or someone else. Most firearm retailers we approached in Louisiana were unwilling to join The Armory Project due to concerns about civil liability. In fact, a national survey published in a 2022 paper by Barnard et al reported that most firearm retailers cited concerns about civil liability as the primary reason why they would not be willing to provide temporary storage for suicide prevention.

To address this barrier, suicide prevention advocates, firearm retailers, and gun owners in Louisiana came together with legislators and passed Louisiana ACT 453 in 2022. This was the first legislation to provide immunity from civil liability for a firearm retailer who provides temporary storage to help prevent suicides. Since then, over 30 new firearm retailers have joined The Armory Project in Louisiana.

Several other states have passed legislation modeled on the law in Louisiana including Arkansas, Nevada, Montana, and Alabama. The Armory Project is now active in 5 states and has collaborated with firearm retailers in those states to educate tens of thousands of firearm owners about secure storage to prevent suicide and stored over 1,000 firearms for Veterans, First Responders, and other firearm owners in need.

In 2025, we began collaborating with suicide prevention advocates in Kansas to bring The Armory Project model to your state. So far, two firearm retailers have joined The Armory Project in Kansas, but all others have declined due to concerns about liability.

As with the bills introduced in Louisiana and other states, Kansas HB 2501 is supported by suicide prevention and mental health advocates across the state, as well as law enforcement groups, individual firearm retailers, and others in the firearms community.

Respectfully,

Gala True, PhD