

Good Morning! My name is Ken Grommet, of 5725 E. Kellogg, Wichita, Kansas 67218. I am here in person today to speak about the proposed bill HB2501, my experience with Hold My Guns and as a current Federal Firearms Licensee may help you make an educated decision when voting on this particular bill..

My experience or what brought me here today is I have spent my life serving people. I spent 4 years in the Marine Corps and 38 years in law enforcement in the State of Kansas. As an officer I wore many hats, I was my department's range master and armorer, I rose through the ranks and became a street supervisor, a detective supervisor and the SWAT team leader. With a firearms background it seemed like a natural fit that I opened a firearms training facility. I currently own Range 54 in Wichita Kansas.

As it pertains to HB2501 I think the bill is necessary to help protect FFL's who are just trying to do the right thing.

Why I think it's necessary: Last I knew, there were only a few FFL's in the State that offer storage options for people needing temporary storage. Many FFL's might be afraid that if they release the gun back to a person and they go hurt themselves or others they will be found liable. By passing this bill the FFL's may feel more comfortable participating giving gun owners' storage opportunities across the State. According to the US department of Veterans Affairs 2024 Most firearm deaths nationally are suicides and among service members and Veterans more than 73% are by firearms. For someone at risk for suicide, storing the firearm out of the home decreases the suicide risk.

How temporary storage works: Gun storage can be done in two different ways. One, the FFL provides a locker, and the customer provides a lock. The customer locks the gun in the locker and returns on their own to retrieve the gun from the locker. The FFL has no access to the locker because the customer provides their own lock. In this case the gun is not brought into the bound book so there is no paperwork to retrieve the gun, other than the contract between the two parties. Two, the gun is taken into inventory for storage which must be brought into the bound book. Upon retrieval of that gun a form 4473 must be completed. If the person under

crisis was adjudicated for a mental disorder or has committed some sort of crime the FFL would receive a deny on the background check. Like any other denial on the 4473 the FFL would not be able to release that gun. The bound book is the acquisition and disposal book every FFL must maintain. It shows where every gun was acquired and who the gun was disposed to.

We have been a part of Hold My Guns for several years; we are also considering being a part of The Armory Project a veteran focused program. This allows our facility to take guns in for storage for someone who might be in crisis or a variety of other reasons. Examples of current storage customers, I had a couple bring guns into our facility for us to store their guns while they are on an extended stay in Europe, this couple did not want to leave their guns in the home for fear of a burglary and theft of the guns. I had a customer who was building a new home and needed to store guns for a period. I have had people in crisis store their guns with us.

We are close to McConnell Air Force base. Contractors who have the right to defend themselves cannot take guns onto the Air Force base and need a place to store guns while they do their work on the base.

Our facility is across the street from the VA hospital; we can work with social workers and others to help lower the suicide rate in our area.

If other FFL's get involved with storage opportunities, we could reduce the risk of suicide Statewide.

I would be glad to answer additional questions.