

**January 23, 2024**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

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**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

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**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5020

**OPPONENT.**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** WebEx Oral Testimony

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit testimony. I'm here today to voice my opposition to HCR 5020. This bill could limit the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices as well as expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers.

The frequency of school and mass shootings across our country is sobering. Guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in our nation. Our children and the educators who teach and care for them shouldn't need to learn how and when to run, hide, or fight; they shouldn't have to learn how to stop the bleed; they shouldn't have to worry if today will be the day.

Parents, grandparents, and even hunters and other gun owners want laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. Conversely, this amendment to our constitution could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans.

Personally speaking, I became an outspoken common-sense gun law advocate in 2018 after the tragedy in Parkland, Florida, because the issue stirred my heart as a parent, a classroom teacher, and a wife of a classroom teacher. However, gun violence directly impacted my family in August of 2022 when my aunt and uncle both died by suicide using a gun. From 1999 to 2022, states with our nation's most permissive gun laws, like Kansas and Arizona where my late aunt and uncle lived and died, saw a 39% increase in suicides completed with a gun.

The loosening of gun regulations will have unintended and tragic consequences. You can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals or those experiencing a mental health crisis do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. You continue to do a disservice to our collective safety by making it easier for criminals and those who are mentally unstable to access deadly weapons.

It is with the utmost respect and appreciation for what our great state has provided our family that I appeal to you now. Please VOTE NO on HCR 5020.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Claire M. Reagan  
Olathe, KS