

SB 482

Proponent, In Person

Jason Watkins for Kansas State Rifle Association

jason@wsks.us / 316-461-8112

February 21, 2022

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas State Rifle Association, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 482, AN ACT concerning government contracts; enacting the firearm industry nondiscrimination act; prohibiting certain contracts with entities that discriminate against firearm or ammunition industries.

S.B. 482 is very simple in its application. This legislation would forbid all government entities in Kansas from contracting for goods and services with any company that discriminates against firearms entities or firearms associations based solely on such entity's or association's status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association.

In the last several years manufacturers of firearms and ammunition, as well as associations representing citizens that participate in hunting and sport shooting have increasingly been targeted by large corporations and even varying levels of government through targeted discriminatory actions.

In 2016, by a 4-1 ratio, Kansas voters amended their state constitution to include a constitutional right to hunt and fish. Prior to that, the Kansas Constitution was ratified in 1859 and it included the following in its Bill of Rights “Individual right to bear arms; armies. A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and state, for lawful hunting and recreational use, and for any other lawful purpose...” Going even farther back in history, in 1791 the Bill of Rights was ratified and became part of the United States Constitution. Included in those first 10 amendments is the Second Amendment, guaranteeing the right of Americans to bear arms.

It is quite clear that the founders of both our great nation and our state found it of tremendous importance to express and guarantee the right of their citizens to own and possess firearms and ammunition. When governments and corporations target the makers of firearms and ammunition and the organizations that attempt to protect and promote Second Amendment rights and sporting lifestyles, they are abusing their power in an attempt to undermine and circumvent the constitutional rights of Americans, including those living in Kansas. This should not be tolerated and policymakers should take every available action to stop such activity.

The Kansas State Rifle Association urges passage of S.B. 482.