



## NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

400 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 490 • Washington, D.C. 20001 • Tel (202) 220-1340 • Fax (202) 220-1349

E-mail [tsantos@nssf.org](mailto:tsantos@nssf.org) • [nssf.org](http://nssf.org)

### TREVOR SANTOS

MANAGER, GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS/STATE AFFAIRS

January 28, 2106

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10th St.  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation ("NSSF"), I write to you today to express our strong support for Senate Bill 331 ("SB 331"), also known as the Kansas Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act ("FIND Act"). The FIND Act would make it an "... unlawful discriminatory practice for any person to refuse to provide any goods or services of any kind, to refrain from continuing an existing business relationship, to terminate an existing business relationship with or otherwise discriminate against a person or trade association solely because a person is engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms or ammunition products..."

As the trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, NSSF seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 13,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations, with nearly 200 members in Kansas alone. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Kansas sportsmen, the U.S. military, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

The Obama Administration initiative known as "Operation Choke Point" was an effort by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and Department of Justice ("DOJ") to stop financial institutions from offering services to some regulated industries in an attempt to choke off banking services. The goal of the operation was to coerce banks, thirdparty payment processors and other financial institutions into closing or denying business accounts of clients that the FDIC has classified as "high risk" or as a "reputational risk" for the financial institution. The FDIC included federally licensed firearms retailers and other companies in the firearms and ammunition industry – some of the most heavily regulated businesses in the country - on this list of risky businesses without any evidence or justification.

The language included in SB 331, the FIND Act, would ensure that those involved in the firearms industry are no longer discriminated against solely because they are involved in

the lawful commerce of firearms and/or ammunition products. Unfortunately, the discrimination against those in our industry extends far beyond the Obama Administration's Operation Choke Point. According to a survey of our members, individuals engaged in the business of manufacturing and dealing in firearms and ammunition products have experienced being refused goods and services by financial institutions simply because they were engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms and ammunition. This discrimination and refusal to provide goods and services results in higher costs of doing business and increased prices for consumers when exercising their Second Amendment Rights.

Our members report facing discrimination from internet search engines, payment processors, insurance companies and other service providers not covered by the FDIC. While the firearms industry respects the right of financial institutions and other service providers to make business decisions based on objective criteria, it is unacceptable to discriminate against businesses simply because they are engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms, an activity protected by the Second Amendment.

It is for these reasons the NSSF strongly supports the protection of those involved in the lawful commerce of firearms and ammunition products, and therefore, strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 331.

Sincerely,



Trevor W. Santos  
Manager of Government Relations – State Affairs  
National Shooting Sports Foundation