

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Shana Arnhold

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** shanaarnhold@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** [choose one]

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it threatens public safety and could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers

Kansans suffer gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas. 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 could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on its impact: it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.

Please vote no on HCR 5006.

Shana Arnhold  
Lenexa, KS

A-L

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Amy Bales

**TITLE:** Concerned Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [amy.nichole30@gmail.com](mailto:amy.nichole30@gmail.com)

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong opposition to HCR 5006 as it threatens public safety and could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers.

The extreme framework proposed would make it nearly impossible for the state to enact, enforce, or defend commonsense firearm safety laws that protect Kansans from gun violence. Research demonstrates that responsible firearm regulations like secure storage requirements consistently experience lower rates of gun violence, suicides, and mass shootings. Kansas already lacks many proven gun violence policies and this amendment would make it even harder to implement evidence-based measures that keep communities safe.

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 could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Kansans already suffer gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas. Instead of making it harder to address these issues, lawmakers should be working towards policies that balance Second Amendment rights with reasonable safety measures that prevent unnecessary loss of life.

I urge you to vote NO on HCR 5006 and protect Kansans ability to enact and enforce the gun safety laws that our communities need.

Amy Bales  
Shawnee, KS

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Leanna Barclay

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen Retired Speech Pathologist

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** leannawbarclay@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it is a potentially dangerous bill which will threaten public safety. This bill will only make it easier for questionable individuals to possess and use dangerous and illegal devices.

Kansans suffer gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas. Parents, grandparents and even hunters and other gun owners want laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. It just goes against common sense that this amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

I am confident that our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on its **impact**. HCR 5006 gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons.

I am asking you to please vote no on HCR 5006. It is bad for the people of Kansas.

Leanna Barclay

Shawnee Kansas 66216

Tammy Bartels speaking for HCR 5006

Chairman Kessler and esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Tammy Bartels and I am a resident of Lawrence, KS. I rise today to speak in favor of the Continuing House Resolution 5006. I am here today representing not only myself, but as the Kansas State Director of Women for Gun Rights and the Training Committee Co-Chair of the Kansas State Rifle Association.

The right to keep and bear arms should not be a partisan issue. As a certified firearms instructor I have trained people of all races, religions, ages, personal identities, and political beliefs. Everyone should have the right to protect themselves with the most effective tools available if they so choose.

While common sense should prevail that "arms" includes all of the components necessary for those tools to function safely and effectively, that has sadly not been the case. We have seen efforts to place undue limits on our inalienable right to personal protection through excessive restrictions on things like ammunition and magazine capacity in several states across the country.

Even if you personally do not support the Constitution and the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, many of your constituents back home do. There are gun owners in every city and county in our fair state. By voting no on this resolution, you are denying the people who reside in your district the opportunity to have a voice.

When this amendment is put before the people, you, like everyone else, will be able to vote your personal beliefs. But today you are not here representing yourself, you are here representing all people in your district and throughout the state. I encourage you to vote yes and allow the citizens of Kansas to decide this issue as opposed to playing partisan politics with my rights and the rights of all Kansans.

Thank you for your time.

Proponents B~T

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Alexandra Battey

**TITLE:** Kansas citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** alibattey@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:**

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers, thereby threatening public safety.

Gun violence continues to be a major concern in all of our communities. As a parent, I continue to be concerned about the fact that gun violence continues to be the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas. The rights of law-abiding citizens are already protected by the Second Amendment.

We can look to other states who have passed similar strict scrutiny laws to see the effects of these laws: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns. This ultimately makes our communities less safe (while also costing the state money). This is a lose-lose scenario for all Kansans—including gun owners.

Please vote NO on HCR 5006.

Alexandra Battey  
Overland Park, KS

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Angela Beck

**TITLE:** Leavenworth, KS citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** the5becks@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:**

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it could limit the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices and it exposes the state (including taxpayer dollars) to lawsuits from convicted criminals.

Gun rights are already well protected within the Kansas Bill of Rights. I think we can agree, convicted felons and those found to be a danger to self or others should not own guns. However, when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued the state for access to guns. This amendment could limit local and state law enforcement's ability to do their job: they would not be able to intervene if violent criminals are in possession of federally illegal devices. This amendment jeopardizes public safety on the taxpayers' dime as states mount defenses against suits from convicted criminals. The Missouri State Auditor determined that Louisiana's strict scrutiny law led to "significant time, effort, and expenditures by Louisiana's public defenders and district attorney's offices," imposing "significant workload and related costs on the Louisiana government." The auditor projected that a strict scrutiny law in Missouri would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on **its impact: it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.**

In closing, I'm asking you as a Kansas resident, taxpayer and voter, to please vote no on HCR 5006.

Angela Beck  
Leavenworth

**February 5, 2025**  
**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Andrew Blackton  
**TITLE:** Private Citizen  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** andrew@blackton.net  
**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006  
**OPPONENT**  
**WRITTEN-ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to encourage you to vote **no** on HCR 5006.

As a parent, I am concerned about dangerous individuals having access to firearms. This resolution is a threat to Kansas's existing public safety laws that keep dangerous people from possessing deadly weapons. If adopted, this resolution could lead to convicted felons and domestic abusers suing our state to resume possession of these weapons. This is not only a fiscally irresponsible choice, but it puts vulnerable Kansans at risk of violence.

We do not need this resolution in Kansas. We already have Second Amendment rights, and opening the door to litigation and other unforeseen consequences is the wrong choice for Kansas citizens.

I ask you to vote no on HCR 5006.

Sincerely,

Andrew Blackton  
Shawnee, KS

**February 5, 2025**  
**Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

**NAME:** Kristen Blackton

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** krosekauf@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY-TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am writing as a Kansas citizen to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it poses a threat to public safety and could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including those convicted of domestic abuse.

In an average year, **473** Kansans die by guns. Kansas's gun violence rate is above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among our children and teens. I'm a parent and a former educator. I, along with many other parents and guardians in our state, want state laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. In fact, in the 2024 Kansas Speaks survey conducted by The Docking Institute of Public Affairs, **over 83%** of Kansans were in favor of "preventing sales of all firearms to people who have been reported as dangerous to law enforcement by a mental health provider." As you can see, this is a popular sentiment in our state.

This proposed amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, which would pose a severe threat to the safety of all Kansans. Unfortunately, this is not hyperbolic. Similar amendments have passed in other states, and as a result, felons and domestic abusers have sued the government for access to guns. This leads to using taxpayers' money to mount defenses against dangerous individuals in addition to making our state less safe.

Gun rights are already well-protected in the Kansas Bill of Rights. Our state can protect our Second Amendment rights while also making sure that dangerous people don't have access to firearms. I know that you want your constituents to be safe in their communities. Please vote NO on House Resolution 5006.

Thank you for your time,

Kristen Blackton  
Shawnee, KS



February 5, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs of Rhae Burt, a lifelong Kansas Citizen

rhaemoore@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HCR 5006

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it could expand gun access to dangerous individuals and threatens public safety.

I have lived in Kansas the entirety of my 42 years, with the exception of time I spent overseas. I love this state, I love the people, the landscape, the values that were inherent in my childhood and those of so many I grew up with.

I have gone through all of the meaningful phases of life in Kansas: from infancy to toddlerhood, grade school to middle school, obtaining my Driver's License and getting my engineering degree from Kansas State University. I married a Kansan. I then entered into the motherhood phase in Kansas. Now, we are in the phase of life where our children are about to go to grade school here in Kansas. And I am terrified. There is so much as a parent that is out of your control, which is something that comes with being a parent. I am ok with the need to let go of what is outside of my control, and am actively making peace with that.

However, I am NOT ok accepting that which I should not accept, and am prayerfully considering and pursuing the best course of action to most effectively intervene. This is where you come in.

I know that we can all agree that there should be a world where a child is not shot in their school (or anywhere, for that matter). There should be a world where a parent of a kindergartner in Kansas isn't wondering when the next school shooting will occur in our country and this time, if it will be in the classroom or hallways of the place where she is entrusting her kind-hearted, silly, clever daughter who has her own unique sense of style. I am sending her to school to grow and blossom (which, by the way, we are so fortunate with our school district in Kansas), with the threat hanging out there that it may be the place where instead, it is cut short. This situation as it is today, is unreasonable.

In general, guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas.

I know that there are *many* components to stopping school shootings and curbing gun violence. It is complicated.

I am asking you to view this amendment from the lens of *hindering* progress or future progress toward actions we can take.

Our family is a family of hunters, we are not interested in laws that take away guns from gun owners. But we do want laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. We want reasonable laws.

Please keep in mind, too, that when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Let's please take steps together to protect rights of lawful gun owners, yes, but also **the lives of children and all Kansas citizens**. Please vote **"no"** on HCR 5006.

Rhae Burt  
Proud Citizen of KS  
Roeland Park

February 5, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: David Carttar

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HCR 5006

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler, Committee members, and staff:

I was born in Kansas, and have lived here for most of my life. I love this state, and have deep respect for all the people who call it home. I am writing because I believe that HCR 5006 will threaten public safety in our state by making existing gun-safety laws nearly unenforceable, and by preventing future lawmakers from passing any further measures to keep guns out of the hands of people who we all agree shouldn't have easy access to deadly force.

In nearly a decade of volunteer work, I have learned the stories of countless survivors of gun violence. They have suffered losses that none of us should wish on others in our state: deaths and life-altering injuries that cannot be undone, and that too many of us appreciate only when they affect our own loved ones.

What could be undone if the standard of strict scrutiny is applied to gun rights in the Kansas Constitution, are laws that prohibit felons and domestic abusers from possessing guns, and laws that protect children and other vulnerable people from suicide and unintentional shootings by encouraging guns and ammunition to be stored securely.

Several years ago, gun fatalities replaced car accidents as the leading cause of death for children and teens in Kansas. Firearms are the leading means of suicide in the state, and account for more than half of all intimate-partner homicides. Our citizens deserve protection through reasonable gun-safety legislation, now and in the future.

If adopted, however, strict scrutiny would threaten to eliminate Kansas's most crucial public-safety laws, and would even force taxpayers to pay for legal challenges by criminal defendants. Prior experience in Missouri and Louisiana offers fair warning to you as legislators, and to all of us as citizens: we must retain the freedom to protect ourselves, our children, and our communities from constitutional straitjackets like HCR 5006.

I encourage members of the committee to vote NO on this dangerous resolution, in the interest of your constituents and of all your fellow Kansans.

Respectfully,  
David Carttar  
Lawrence, Kansas

February 4, 2005

Bill: HCR5006

Proponent Written-only Testimony

Conferee: Dale Enyart

Representing: Self

Chairman Kessler and Members of the Committee,

I am 100% a Proponent of HCR5006!! It's long past due that our God-given Constitutionally guaranteed Second Amendment rights are spelled out in our Kansas Constitution so clearly that a kindergartener could explain them to their confused parent. Thank you in advance for supporting the common sense brought to you in HCR5006!!

Respectfully,

Dale Enyart

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Danielle Giarla

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** [choose one]

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it threatens public safety and limits the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices.

Gun rights are already well protected within the Kansas Bill of Rights. We can agree, convicted felons and those found to be a danger to self or others should not own guns. However, when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued the state for access to guns. This amendment could limit local and state law enforcement's ability to do their job: they would not be able to intervene if violent criminals are in possession of federally illegal devices. This amendment jeopardizes public safety on the taxpayers' dime as states mount defenses against suits from convicted criminals. The Missouri State Auditor determined that Louisiana's strict scrutiny law led to "significant time, effort, and expenditures by Louisiana's public defenders and district attorney's offices," imposing "significant workload and related costs on the Louisiana government." The auditor projected that a strict scrutiny law in Missouri would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on its impact: it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.

Please keep Kansas constituents in mind and vote no on HCR 5006

Danielle Giarla

Kansas Citizen



3 February 2025

Written Only via [h.fed.state.affairs@house.ks.gov](mailto:h.fed.state.affairs@house.ks.gov)

Local Contact Information:

Christopher Tymeson, 785-640-1946

[ctymeson@scifirstforhunters.org](mailto:ctymeson@scifirstforhunters.org), Safari Club International

Re: HCR 5006, Amending the Section 4 of the Kansas Bill of Rights

Dear Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the House Concurrent Resolution 5006. HCR 5006 would amend Section 4 of the Kansas Bill of Rights to recognize the right to bear arms as a fundamental right that includes the possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories and firearm components, and that any restrictions on such right are subject to the strict scrutiny standard. SCI strongly supports the resolution.

The right to bear arms is viewed by a vocal minority as a second-class right. This resolution would ensure that if or when judicial review of a restriction on the right to bear arms comes before the Kansas courts, review would be subject to the highest level of scrutiny. For those who question the necessity of such measures, one only need to look west to Washington state this year where a slew of bills ranging from restrictions on the number of monthly firearm purchases, permits to purchase firearms, point of sale tax increases on firearms and ammunition, and per-firearm insurance policies are all being proposed. And if Washington is too far away, Colorado has bills that would ban "specified semiautomatic firearms" and prohibit the sale of ammunition to persons under the age of 21. All across the nation, the right to bear arms is under assault. The time to act is now, before it is too late.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution 5006. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and is always First for Hunters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Laird Hamberlin".

W. Laird Hamberlin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Safari Club International

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Holly Hammond

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** hollyxhammond@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it poses a danger to Kansans. This bill could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers, and limit the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices.

As an educator and a parent, I am greatly opposed to this bill. I want to raise my children in a Kansas that feels safe. Kansans suffer gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among kids and teens in Kansas. 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 could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Please, for a safer Kansas, vote no on HCR 5006

Holly Hammond

Kansas Citizen

Kansas City, KS

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Amy Hill

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** amykfrost@yahoo.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT.**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I would like to voice my opposition to HCR 5006.

If Kansas lawmakers want to address gun safety, they should do it in a meaningful and impactful way. HCR 5006 does not, instead it

- Could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers
- Limits the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices

Guns are the one of the leading causes of death among kids and teens in Kansas. Each time there is a mass shooting – you hear the outcry from millions of people to enact gun safety laws that will protect our children in schools and people going about their daily lives. As a lawmaker, you have the opportunity to do just this. Instead, if you choose to pursue this amendment, you could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

It is still possible to protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on its impact: it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense and puts everyone's safety at risk.

Please vote no on HCR 5006.

Amy Hill

Olathe, KS



February 5th, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Hannah Howard

[hannahhoward916@gmail.com](mailto:hannahhoward916@gmail.com)

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5006

Opponent

Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 5006.

My name is Hannah Howard, and I am a resident of Kansas who works for a youth-serving non-profit. I am writing to express my opposition due to concerns about this bill's potential negative impact on the ability to implement common-sense gun legislation in the future to protect our children.

First and foremost, I am deeply concerned about the application of strict scrutiny as outlined in this bill. Its application here would place an overly burdensome standard on any potential gun safety regulations that may be passed in the future. This could significantly hinder the ability of future lawmakers to enact reasonable and effective measures to protect public safety, such as laws that ensure safe gun storage.

Kansas is facing a public health crisis, and in an average year 473 people die by guns in Kansas. As a resident, I am deeply saddened by this statistic. I cannot help but fear that the next shooting could be at my church, school, or grocery store. This fills me with fear, and I know I am not alone, because my friends also fear to send their children to school due to the threat of gun violence.

Kansas still lacks essential measures like Extreme Risk laws that enable law enforcement to ask for a court order to temporarily remove guns from dangerous people or secure storage laws that prevent children from unprotected gun access. Both laws would work to protect our youth and our communities.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the implications of this bill, particularly the use of strict scrutiny, and how it may obstruct sensible and necessary efforts to improve gun safety in Kansas. It is crucial that we find ways to protect both gun rights and the well-being of our communities, without resorting to overreach that limits the tools available to law enforcement or lawmakers to do so effectively.

Please vote no on House Concurrent Resolution No. 5006.

Sincerely,

Hannah Howard

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Howard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Merriam, KS



## WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HCR 5006

February 5, 2025

Chair Kessler, Vice Chair Schmoe, Ranking Member Miller & Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Dena Hubbard, a practicing neonatologist and Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP). I submit this written testimony on behalf of the 400 pediatricians across Kansas who care deeply about the safety and well-being of our children. KAAP is strongly opposed to the proposed HCR 5006 to amend section 4 of the Kansas Bill of Rights.

Pediatricians across Kansas see the devastating impact of firearm injuries and deaths far too often. We have a responsibility to advocate for policies that protect Kansas children. Firearms are now the second leading cause of death among children and teens in our state, and the number of firearm-related deaths has been increasing over the last five years.

In Kansas, a child or teen dies by suicide every six days, making it the second leading cause of death for those aged 10-24. Firearms are the most lethal method, significantly increasing the risk of a fatal outcome. Most adolescent school shooters obtain their weapons from family members, relatives, or friends—often through theft. For younger children caught in the cycle of domestic violence, access to firearms can turn a dangerous situation deadly. Research shows that in cases of intimate partner violence, 20% of child homicides are committed with a firearm. The reality is that when firearms are easily accessible, the likelihood of tragic outcomes, whether from suicide, unintentional injury, or violent crime, increases significantly.

Kansans have always valued personal responsibility and the protection of our families. HCR 5006 would amend the Kansas Constitution to allow the uncontrolled possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories, and firearm components. It would remove critical safeguards that help prevent tragedies like the ones we see in our hospitals and emergency rooms. If passed, this amendment would:

- Make it harder to implement gun safety measures, even those widely supported by gun owners.
- Increase access to firearms for individuals who may pose a risk to themselves or others, including those with a history of domestic violence.
- Weaken schools' and communities' ability to identify and address potential threats before they turn into tragedies.
- Contribute to the rising number of firearm-related injuries and deaths among children in Kansas.



**KANSAS CHAPTER**  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Incorporated in Kansas

› 785.380.6100

› [KansasAAP.org](http://KansasAAP.org)

› PO Box 860481, Shawnee, KS 66286

Keeping safeguards in place is not about restricting rights, it is about ensuring that families can live in safe communities. When kids feel safe at home, in school, and in their communities, they can focus on learning, playing, and building a bright future.

The KAAP urges you to oppose HCR 5006 and keep Kansas children safe. Thank you for your time, and I am available as a resource for any questions.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Dena K. Hubbard, MD, FAAP

Chair, Public Policy Committee

Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Executive Director  
Denise Cyzman

President  
Kelly Kreisler MD, MPH, FAAP

President-Elect  
Sonder Crane MD, FAAP

Treasurer  
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Immediate Past President  
Gretchen Homan MD, FAAP

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Henry Johns

**TITLE:**

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** hljohns@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

As a life member of the National Rifle Association, I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it:

- May expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers
- Limit the ability of law enforcement to stop convicted felons or abusers from possessing dangerous and illegal devices
- Endangers and threatens public safety

Firearm rights are well protected in Kansas Bill of Rights. We do not need to change or add to that. In other states, when similar language was added to law, felons and abusers sued the state to gain access to firearms.

Our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons. The Missouri State Auditor determined that Louisiana's strict scrutiny law led to "significant time, effort, and expenditures by Louisiana's public defenders and district attorney's offices," imposing "significant workload and related costs on the Louisiana government." The auditor projected that a strict scrutiny law in Missouri would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The Kansas taxpayers do not need to pay the price of an ill-advised amendment.

Many of the terms in this proposal are poorly defined and leave open Pandora's box of problems. The legislature needs to look beyond the intent of the bill and see it's impact on our state.

I ask you to consider closely and vote NO on HCR 5006.

Henry Johns  
Lawrence, Ks

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Karin Jones

**TITLE:** Kansas City, Mother of two

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** karinarlene@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it:

- Limit the ability of law enforcement to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices
- Exposes the state (and taxpayer dollars) to lawsuits

Gun rights are already well protected within the Kansas Bill of Rights. We can agree, convicted felons and those found to be a danger to self or others should not own guns. However, when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued the state for access to guns. **This amendment could limit local and state law enforcement's ability to do their job:** they would not be able to intervene if violent criminals are in possession of federally illegal devices. This amendment jeopardizes public safety on the taxpayers' dime as states mount defenses against suits from convicted criminals. The Missouri State Auditor determined that Louisiana's strict scrutiny law led to "significant time, effort, and expenditures by Louisiana's public defenders and district attorney's offices," imposing "significant workload and related costs on the Louisiana government." The auditor projected that a strict scrutiny law in Missouri would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Please look beyond this bill's intent and focus on its impact: it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.

I am writing to ask you to vote no on HCR 5006.

Karin Jones  
Prairie Village , KS

February 3, 2025

**To the Honorable Members of the Kansas Legislature,**

As a proponent of this amendment to the Kansas Constitution, I stand in support of recognizing the right to bear arms as a natural and fundamental right that deserves the highest legal protection. This amendment is crucial for preserving the liberties of Kansans and affirming the belief that the right to keep and bear arms should be fully protected, with no infringement.

Firstly, this amendment ensures that Kansans' right to bear arms is acknowledged as a natural and fundamental right. This principle has been embedded in the fabric of American democracy and is essential for ensuring personal freedom and security.

Secondly, the amendment clearly states that this right extends to ammunition, firearm accessories, and components. This clarification is necessary to ensure that the right to bear arms is not undermined by restrictions on these essential elements. Possession of firearms and related components must be fully protected for the right to have any meaningful impact.

Thirdly, the amendment explicitly affirms that individuals have the right to bear arms for self-defense, the defense of family, home, and state, as well as for lawful hunting and recreational use. In an era where safety and security are increasing concerns, this right remains a cornerstone of personal freedom.

Moreover, by making any restrictions on the right to bear arms subject to strict scrutiny, this amendment ensures that any governmental action limiting this right would be subject to the highest level of judicial review. This provides an added safeguard against potential overreach or encroachment on citizens' rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jaime Kissinger  
Republican Women United IT mgr., VP  
Pachyderm Membership Director  
Sedgwick County Patriot  
526 Precinct Committeewoman

**February 5, 2025**

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

**NAME:** Megan Langford

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** langford.megan@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written Only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006. This is a dangerous resolution that threatens public safety and opens the state up to lawsuits from convicted criminals.

Gun rights are already protected within the Kansas Bill of Rights. Surely we can all agree, however, that convicted felons and those found to be a danger to themselves or others should not own guns.

This resolution poses a direct threat to Kansas public safety laws that protect our communities by keeping guns out of dangerous hands due to the strict scrutiny judicial standard. This standard would threaten to eliminate Kansas's most crucial public safety laws, including prohibitions on gun possession by convicted felons and domestic abusers.

After strict scrutiny amendments passed in Louisiana and Missouri, convicted felons challenged state laws that prohibit felons from possessing firearms. At least one lower court found that Louisiana's law prohibiting felons from having guns was unconstitutional.

The Second Amendment is already enshrined in the Kansas Constitution. This proposition is not needed in order to protect gun rights and would open the door to unforeseen consequences like the state's current gun safety laws being struck down and a costly flood of litigation in the courts challenging the state's existing laws.

Please vote no on HCR 5006. This is an unnecessary resolution that gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.

Thank you,  
Megan Langford  
Lenexa, KS

February 5, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Alysun Lauck

Kansas Citizen

[alysunlauck@gmail.com](mailto:alysunlauck@gmail.com)

HCR 5006

Opponent

Written Only Testimony

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006 as it could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including domestic abusers and threatens public safety.

Kansans suffer gun violence at rates above the national average, and guns are the leading causes of death among kids and teens in Kansas. Most Kansans including gun owners want laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. This amendment would make it easier for convicted felons and domestic abusers to obtain firearms. When similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.

Our state can protect the Second Amendment while also ensuring that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns by passing and enforcing reasonable gun laws. We continue to do a disservice to our communities by making it easier for criminals and mentally unstable individuals to access deadly weapons.

Please consider voting no on HCR 5006.

Alysun Lauck

Kansas Citizen, Salina KS 67401



February 5, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

**NAME:** Jacqueline Lightcap

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen and parent

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** jacquielightcap@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** HCR 5006

**OPPONENT**

**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Kessler & members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HCR 5006. Gun rights are already well protected within the Kansas Bill of Rights. In addition, HCR 5006 threatens public safety, potentially limiting law enforcement's ability to intervene if convicted felons possess dangerous and illegal devices.

I think we can all agree that convicted felons and those found to be a danger to self or others should not own guns. Yet this amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, a sure threat to the safety of all Kansans. This is not a hypothetical: **when similar amendments passed in other states, convicted felons and domestic abusers sued for access to guns.**

For example, Louisiana is one state that has passed a strict scrutiny law. When looking into the potential impacts of this bill in Missouri, Missouri's State Auditor determined that Louisiana's law led to "significant time, effort, and expenditures by Louisiana's public defenders and district attorney's offices," imposing "significant workload and related costs on the Louisiana government." The auditor projected that a strict scrutiny law in Missouri would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Please look beyond intent and focus on **the impact of this bill; it gives dangerous individuals a path to access deadly weapons at taxpayers' expense.**

Kansans do not want to foot the bill for the lawsuits that might result, let alone pay the real cost that is inevitable when our communities are made less safe. I urge you to vote no on HCR 5006.

Jacqueline Lightcap  
Topeka

## **Opponent Testimony**

### **House Federal and State Affairs Committee February 5th, 2025 House Concurrent Resolution 5006**

Chair Kessler, Vice-Chair Schmoe, Ranking Minority Member Miller, and Members of the Committee:

I'm Shannon Little and I'm a Kansas wife and mom who believes in, and advocates for, common sense gun laws that will make Kansans safer. I support the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, but I believe that there should be guardrails on firearm ownership and usage.

I'm part of the Columbine High School generation; the first generation of students that had to worry about being shot and killed at school. Now I'm part of the Sandy Hook and Uvalde Elementary School parent generation that worries that our children will be shot and killed at school. My child and I have also been bystanders to a mass shooting while standing on the hill in front of Union Station at the Chief's Super Bowl celebration. Watching my son's phone videos from that day and hearing the gunshots in the background is still chilling.

HCR 5006 would threaten to eliminate some of Kansas' most crucial public safety laws. On its face, HCR 5006 appears to only broaden gun owners' rights in Kansas, but because of the requirement that any gun law must rise to the level of strict scrutiny, the resolution has unintended negative consequences.

Sixty-eight percent of gun violence in Kansas comes in the form of gun suicide. There are several laws and policy options that could help reduce that number, but if passed, a constitutional amendment with a strict scrutiny test would make it difficult for the legislature to pass laws that limit lethal access to a firearm during a time of crisis. Suicide is taking an increasingly large toll in our rural communities as well as our urban and suburban areas.

If passed, this resolution would pave the way for convicted felons and domestic abusers to legally possess firearms in Kansas. When a strict scrutiny constitutional amendment passed in Missouri, convicted felons challenged state laws that prohibited them from possessing firearms. A similar change in state law in Louisiana led a court to declare the law prohibiting felons from possessing firearms unconstitutional. I ask the members of this committee to reject this resolution and with it the possibility of allowing guns to end up in the hands of convicted felons and domestic abusers here in Kansas.

This resolution would make state taxpayers fund the overflow of lawsuits brought by convicted criminal defendants. In Missouri the state's strict scrutiny law led to significant time and money

spent on these cases. The state auditor projected that the strict scrutiny law would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

I urge you to reject HCR 5006 and instead turn your time and energy to passing laws that will reduce gun suicide and unintentional shootings in Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Little

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD FAIRFAX,

VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

February 4, 2024

House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
300 W 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Kessler:

As a former member and vice-chair of this committee it is, as always, an honor to stand before you today. Thank you all for your service to our state.

I am here in support of HCR 5006 on behalf of the National Rifle Association and our members in Kansas. HCR 5006 will amend section 4 of the Kansas Bill of Rights to ensure the right to keep and bear arms includes essential tools required to exercise that right and ensures the highest level of legal protection in the Kansas Constitution for this fundamental right.

**What is strict scrutiny?**

- Strict scrutiny is the highest level of legal protection for a constitutional right.
- This level of protection is reserved for rights that are deemed “fundamental” (e.g. free speech and right to vote).
- For decades, anti-gun judges and lawyers have fought tirelessly against application of “strict scrutiny” to our fundamental Second Amendment rights.
- Because this proposed amendment will protect a fundamental right and will expressly acknowledge the right as “fundamental,” it naturally follows that the protected right requires the highest level of legal protection.
- If accepted by the voters in November, Kansas would have one of the strongest state protections of the right to keep and bears arms nationwide. Missouri already has it. We can’t let Missouri beat us!

Some will ask why? We already have the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and the recent *Bruen* case so why does Kansas need to do this? This will essentially serve as a backup to the Second Amendment, available if the federal courts, Congress, or the executive branch ignore or further abuse the protections of that amendment. In addition, its requirement that potential infringements on our right to keep and bear arms must be considered by Kansas courts

under the doctrine of strict scrutiny should be a powerful deterrent to Kansas authorities tempted to infringe on that right.

On behalf of our members in Kansas the NRA strongly supports the passage of HCR 5006. Let the people of Kansas vote on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis L. Couture-Lovelady". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping underline.

Travis Couture-Lovelady  
State Director – Kansas  
NRA-ILA

[www.nra-ila.org](http://www.nra-ila.org)