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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB80
February 20, 2019**

Chairman Welborn and Committee members:

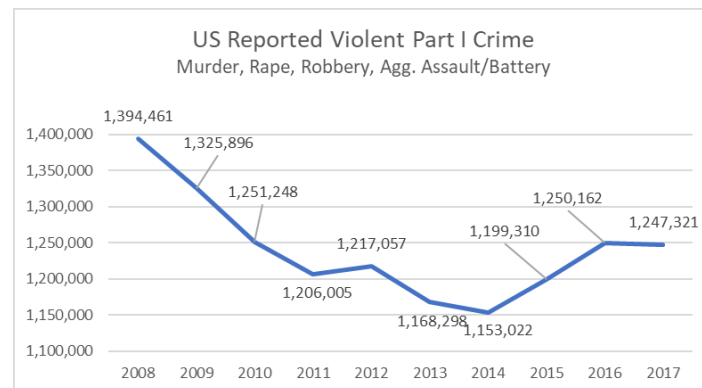
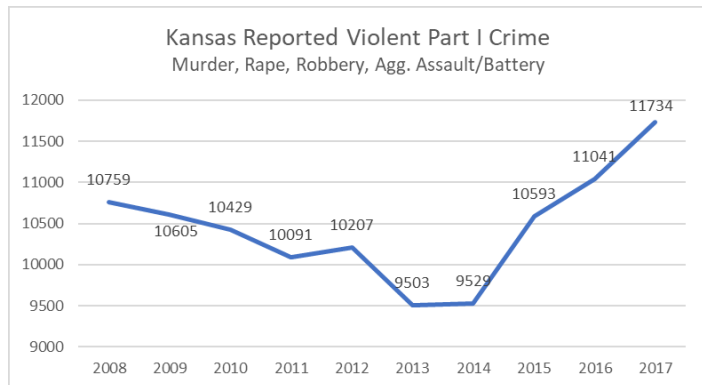
Our associations support SB80. This bill addresses violent crimes by targeting the issue of convicted felons possessing prohibited weapons. These offenders are demonstrating their lack of compliance with law and many times their parole or probation conditions. It shouldn't take risk assessment tools that persons violating this law pose a significant risk of being involved in violent criminal activity.

We are facing one of the most dramatic increases in violent crime in Kansas we have seen. It is spiking at a much higher rate than the US increase. This increase started in Kansas and Nationally in 2014.

Change in Violent Crime

Year Range	Kansas	US
2016-2017	6.3%	-0.2%
2014-2017	23.1%	8.2%

The most important provision in this bill is moving the sentence from a SL8 nonperson felony to a SL6 nonperson felony. This change will move offenders in Categories C, D, E and F out of presumptive probation. We are particularly interested in those in Categories C and D, which means they have prior person felonies.



Source: 2017 KBI Crime Index Report and 2017 Crime in the US Report-FBI

How do firearms affect these crimes? Firearms in homicides are on the rise nationally.

US Homicides by Weapon, 2013–2017					
Weapons	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	12,253	12,270	13,750	15,296	15,129
Total by firearms	8,454	8,312	9,778	11,138	10,982
Percent by Firearms	69.0%	67.7%	71.1%	72.8%	72.6%

Source: 2017 Crime in the US Report-FBI

In Kansas, according to the 2017 FBI Crime in the US Report, there were 129 homicides in Kansas in 2017 that included weapon data. Of those 129 homicides, 79 (61%) were by firearm. There were actually 176 homicides in Kansas in 2017, apparently 47 of those did not have weapon data included.

We also support adding ammunition to the statute. This makes the violation under Kansas law consistent with federal law.

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