

My name is Colleen Cunningham. I consider myself fortunate to have not been directly impacted by domestic violence, and I am writing today in support of HB2251.

We know that in Kansas, between 2015 and 2019, at least 157 people were killed in domestic violence homicides. We know that access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely a woman will be killed. In 2018, that deadly risk was recognized through the near-unanimous, bipartisan passage of a domestic violence bill which prohibited domestic abusers from possessing guns, and was signed into law by then-Governor Colyer. HB2251 would close a loophole left by that earlier legislation by requiring abusers to relinquish their firearms. Closing this loophole will save the lives of our Kansas neighbors, friends and family members who are being abused.

I am confident that we all agree that domestic abusers should not have access to guns. We can see the deadly consequences that arise when they do. Please vote in favor of HB2251 to keep our communities safer from gun violence.