

March 26, 2021

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Moms Demand Action informed me of the legislative hearing HB 2251 and I wish to add my thoughts on the loss of our 31-year old daughter due to "multiple gun shots" as a result of domestic violence.

Our daughter, Erin, feared for her life and had been in counseling regarding her on-and-off abusive situation with husband Gary. The both attended counseling until he declared it was doing no good and he did not agree with what he was being told. In February of 2014, Gary's primary care physician suggested that Gary had bi-polar disease and wanted to set up an appointment with another doctor to help Gary. This was one of the factors in what happened a few days later when the homicide and suicide occurred. The two deceased left behind their three boys of the home and their parents and grandparents.

Many families are affected by domestic violence and access to a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the chance of a woman will be killed by her abuser by *five* times! Under current Kansas law, domestic abusers are prohibited from possessing guns, however there is no mechanism to actually remove guns from their possession. HB 2251 requires those who have become prohibited because they are subject to a valid domestic violence restraining order or because they have been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor to turn in their guns to law enforcement. This is not a red flag bill- this bill is about protecting vulnerable women and children in Kansas. This bill would only impact people who have been found guilty by a court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence or are under an active domestic violence restraining order. Kansas already prohibits these individuals from possession firearms- we just want the legislature to finish what they started in 2018 by closing this last loophole. We must do *something* to protect the women and children involved in these volatile situations. Thank you, that *with your legislative support, our families and society in general can be safeguarded.*

Sincerely,

Marsha Meyersick

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