

March 26, 2021

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

Thank you for holding a hearing on HB 2251, To Protect Women and Families from Armed Domestic Violence. I write to urge your support of HB 2251. My niece was in a domestic situation as the victim of a murder-suicide. She took nine (9) bullets, before her husband turned the gun on himself. She left behind a 12-year-old son, her parents, a brother and other relatives.

In the years 2015 – 2019, firearms were used in 59% of domestic violence homicides in Kansas. In 2018, Republicans and Democrats worked together to enact a common-sense bipartisan law that prohibits most domestic abusers from having firearms. However, the legislation did not specify an enforcement mechanism requiring prohibited abusers to turn in the guns they may already have. Hence, women and families remain threatened by abusers with guns. HB 2251 would provide such a mechanism with law enforcement to hold the gun(s) as long as the abuser is prohibited from possessing the gun(s).

My family never thought this situation could ever happen to us. Both sides of the family are four-plus generation Kansans, who have farmed, who have been active in their churches and community. Children should not have to grow up without their mothers. HB 2251 would help to insure against easy access to guns during a volatile time period.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Karen Mitchell
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