

Testimony of Carl Reed, volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

January 20, 2024

Good afternoon, Chairman Carpenter, committee members, and staff.

My name is Carl Reed. I live in Manhattan and am retired from the faculty of Kansas State University. I am concerned about the increasing gun violence in Aggieville and other parts of my city. Gun-related assaults, murders, and suicides have increased dramatically in the last few years. I see a direct relationship between this increased loss of life and the extremist laws created by the Kansas legislature since the turn of the century.

I am testifying because HCR 5020 is an irresponsible resolution that endangers the public safety of Kansas. Its vocabulary is precisely that of the most extreme and unhinged pro-gun lobbies. It would further erode Kansas law enforcement's ability to keep guns out of the hands of the most dangerous abusers.

If adopted, it would threaten to eliminate Kansas' already feeble public safety laws. It would be an open invitation to lawsuits contesting the ability of the state to prohibit convicted felons and domestic abusers from possessing guns and the prohibition on armor-piercing and other military style ammunition, to cite two of many possible examples. The defense of these extremists' lawsuits would, of course, fall on the taxpayers of Kansas.

I encourage members of the committee to VOTE NO ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 5020.

This concludes my testimony.