

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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RANKING MINORITY: PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE
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KANCARE OVERSIGHT

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Senate Minority Whip

March 7, 2024

Pat Pettey

Senator, District 6, Kansas Legislature

Opponent Written-Only Testimony on HB 2803

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Honorable Will Carpenter & members of the House Committee on Federal & State Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opposition testimony on HB 2803 the Kansas Guns Rights Preservation Act.

As a State Senator and member of Grandparents for Gun Safety this bill appears to do just the opposite of preserving the gun rights of law-abiding citizens. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the office of Judicial Administration, the Office of the Attorney General and the League of Kansas Municipalities all maintain that this bill will jeopardize their ability to investigate and seize weapons when there is no clear indication that the perpetrator is a "law-abiding citizen". This bill could jeopardize the ability to work on federal task forces and create costly court cases that hold law enforcement agents liable for doing their job to protect the safety of all Kansans. Also, local units of government could become ineligible for federal grants as the bill does not comply with federal law.

I would encourage this committee to have hearings on HB 2413 and HB 2245. These bills deal with the safe storage of firearms and gun violence restraining orders. These bills help our gun owners to keep their firearms safely stored and protects loved ones when a gun owner is incapable of making safe decisions. Kansans value their ability to safely own and use a firearm. This bill puts Kansans and Kansas law enforcement in jeopardy. I oppose HB 2803 and ask that you vote "No".

Senator Pat Pettey

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District 6