

**January 21, 2024**

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Kansas Citizen  
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HCR 5020 **OPPONENT**  
**WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY**

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing as a Kansas citizen to voice my opposition to HCR 5020 as it poses a threat to public safety and could expand gun access to dangerous individuals, including those convicted of domestic abuse.

In an average year, 456 Kansans die by guns. Kansas's gun violence rate is above the national average, and guns are the leading cause of death among our children and teens. I'm a parent and a former educator. I, along with many other parents and grandparents in our state, want state laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals. The proposed amendment could allow convicted felons and domestic abusers to own guns, which would pose a severe threat to the safety of all Kansas citizens. Unfortunately, this is not hyperbolic. Similar amendments have passed in other states, and as a result, felons and domestic abusers have sued the government for access to guns. This leads to using taxpayers' money to mount defenses against dangerous individuals in addition to making our state less safe.

Gun rights are already well-protected in the Kansas Bill of Rights. Our state can protect our Second Amendment rights while also making sure that dangerous people don't have access to firearms. You have a duty to pass laws to help your constituents and make their communities safer and better places to live.

I encourage members of the committee to vote NO on House Resolution 5020.

Kristen Blackton  
Shawnee, KS