

Support HB 2251

Chairman Barker and Members of the House State and Federal Affairs Committee,

My name is Leanna Barclay and I am testifying in **support** of HB 2251. In 2018 a law was passed that was meant to protect victims of domestic violence. It passed by an overwhelming majority, receiving nearly unanimous support from both parties because no one is in favor of gun violence. Everyone wants to protect women and families from domestic abusers.

The problem is that while this law is excellent there is a loophole that needs to be filled to allow it to provide the protection it is meant to provide. HB 2251 would close this loophole by requiring convicted domestic abusers to relinquish guns they already have in their possession. This addition to the current law is greatly needed and should be passed into law as soon as possible. Lives depend on it. We often hear that we don't need more gun violence prevention laws we just need to enforce the laws we already have. That is exactly what HB 2251 would do! It is merely strengthening the current law by giving law enforcement the tools they need. I am confident this Committee must see the sense in supporting HB 2251 as the current law lacks a vital enforcement piece.

Gun violence prevention measures are even more urgent during this stressful time. In the last year of this pandemic, gun sales have dramatically increased, economic worries have skyrocketed, and the risk of suicides and domestic abuse have soared. This is a dangerous mix which puts Kansas families at greater risk of domestic abuse. We know that the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations greatly increases a woman's chance of death. That is why convicted domestic abusers are prohibited from possessing a gun.

Guns must be kept out of the hands of dangerous people. I know this Committee wants to protect Kansas families. Please support HB 2251!

Thank you,

Leanna Barclay

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