

Testimony of Leanna Barclay

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

January 23, 2023, 9:00AM

Chairman Carpenter, Committee Members, and Staff. Thank you for considering my testimony.

My name is Leanna Barclay.

I am a resident of Shawnee Kansas. I am a retired educator who is deeply concerned about the gun violence in our state and country. The dramatic increase in shootings by our youth is particularly concerning. I have two very young grandchildren and I fear for them.

I am testifying today because HCR 5020 is a dangerous resolution that poses a direct threat to Kansas public safety laws that protect our communities by keeping guns out of the hands of people who we all agree shouldn't have them.

In Kansas, 60% of female Intimate Partner Homicides are killed by a gun. A dear friend's daughter was killed by her estranged partner. She was shot in front of her 2 very young daughters who are forever scarred by her loss. We must keep laws in Kansas that protect the vulnerable.

Gun homicide in Kansas have increased 102% from 2012 to 2021! Surely work must be done to keep guns OUT of the hands of dangerous people. We all want this carnage to stop. Legislators have a responsibility to the people of Kansas to do all they can to enact laws that will reduce gun violence.

This bill poses several significant concerns:

If adopted, strict scrutiny would threaten to eliminate Kansas's most crucial public safety laws, including:

- **Prohibition on Gun Possession by Convicted Felons:** After strict scrutiny amendments passed in Louisiana and Missouri, convicted felons challenged state laws that prohibit felons from possessing firearms. At least one lower court found that Louisiana's law prohibiting felons from having guns was unconstitutional. Fortunately, the Louisiana Supreme Court reversed this ruling.
- **Prohibitions on Gun Possession by Domestic Abusers:** In Louisiana, after strict scrutiny passed, a convicted domestic abuser challenged the constitutionality of a state law prohibiting possession of a firearm by people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes.

Strict scrutiny laws make state taxpayers fund the flow of lawsuits brought by criminal defendants.

- The Missouri State Auditor determined that Louisiana's strict scrutiny law led to "significant time, effort, and expenditures by Louisiana's public defenders and district attorney's offices," imposing "significant workload and related costs on the Louisiana government." The auditor projected that a strict scrutiny law in Missouri would ultimately cost Missouri taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

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