

**March 2, 2022, 10:30a.m.**  
**Kansas State Senate – Federal and State Affairs Committee Hearing**  
**PROPONENT Testimony in support of SB 192**  
**WRITTEN-ONLY Testimony**  
**Testimony of Katy Tyndell, 316.201.6993, [katytyndell@gmail.com](mailto:katytyndell@gmail.com)**  
**Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**

Good Afternoon Chairman Olson, distinguished committee members, and staff. Thank you for considering my testimony today.

My name is Katy Tyndell. I am a fifth generation Kansan, an attorney, a mother of three amazing kids, and a gun violence prevention advocate. My husband and I moved from the Washington, DC area in 2013 and have resided in Wichita ever since. Before my move and career change, I worked as a Staff Attorney for the National Congress of American Indians in our nation’s capital and specialized in issues of law enforcement in Indian Country and violence against Native women. In that role, I was privileged to serve as a member of the Steering Committee of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, an organization focused on the development, passage, and implementation of effective public policy to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

I testify today, because there is a gaping hole in Kansas law that needs to be filled. In 2018, Kansas lawmakers came together in bipartisan fashion to enact into law a bill (then House Bill 2145) that prohibits most domestic abusers from possessing firearms. However, that law was unintentionally void of language that would have provided law enforcement with the tools to effectively implement it. In other words, even if an abuser is technically prohibited from having firearms, current law does not provide the process pursuant to which they must relinquish the guns they may already have. SB 192 would provide such a process for relinquishment and fulfill the intent behind that 2018 law.

We all know the statistics. When an abusive partner has access to a gun, a woman is five times more likely to be killed during an episode of domestic violence.<sup>i</sup> According to research, here in Kansas firearms were used in 59% of the 157 domestic violence homicides that occurred in the state between 2015-2019.<sup>ii</sup> A firearm in the hands of a domestic abuser not only creates a deadly environment for their victim(s), but it also ratchets up any possible interaction with law enforcement into a potentially deadly situation. Ensuring that these dangerous individuals do not have access to firearms is good policy—that’s why HB 2145 passed in bipartisan fashion in 2018. Now, it is time to ensure its effective implementation by passing SB 192.

Imagine the Kansas wife and mother, who has been the object of repeated abuse at the hands of her husband over several years—a woman who finally musters up the courage to seek a restraining order against her perpetrator after he decides to target their children and threaten her life. Imagine her increased fortitude and determination to get that restraining order after finding out that Kansas law makes it illegal for her husband to possess firearms after that order is issued. Imagine the strength it takes for her to pursue and ultimately obtain that restraining order. Now, imagine the sheer horror that comes over her upon finding out that, despite that 2018 law, the police do not have the tools necessary to take away her husband’s guns.

We owe it to this woman, and all other victims of intimate partner violence, to ensure that they are not put at increased risk after seeking help. SB 192 would provide law enforcement with the mechanisms needed to enforce current law and ensure that domestic abusers do not have access to deadly weapons, and I urge the members of this committee to pass it without further delay.

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<sup>i</sup> *Everytown for Gun Safety analysis of Kansas Bureau of Investigation Domestic Violence and Rape Statistics*. Analysis include data from 2015-2019. Accessed February 10, 2021. Available at: [http://www.accesskansas.org/kbi/stats/stats\\_dvrape.shtml](http://www.accesskansas.org/kbi/stats/stats_dvrape.shtml).

<sup>ii</sup> *Id.*