

March 2, 10:30AM
Kansas State Senate - Federal and State Affairs Committee Hearing
PROPONENT Testimony in support of SB 192
This is a WRITTEN-ONLY Testimony
Testimony of Rev. Chad Langdon, 636-699-8747, pastor@christ-lutheran.org
Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Greetings to Chairman Olson, Committee members, and staff. Thank you for taking a moment to read my testimony today.

My name is Rev. Chad Langdon and I am the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Wichita, KS. I have lived in Kansas for over 10 years and have never been politically active or submitted anything like this... until now.

Three weeks ago, I was asked to officiate the funeral for Haley Powell. Haley was the 19-year-old mother of 15-month-old Lincoln, and she was the sister of a member in our congregation. She lived in Derby, worked fulltime at Texas Roadhouse, and despite being a young mother, had big plans for her life and was making positive changes. On Friday, February 4, Haley was the victim of domestic violence. Her partner got upset because she was leaving. He had easy access to a gun and shot her in the head. He then ran from police and shot himself while being pursued. It was a horrible tragedy for all involved, and despite a blizzard, over 300 people showed up to her funeral on February 17th.

Two lives were ended because of gun violence. While I don't know the details of her partner's history with abuse and access to guns, I do know that current Kansas state law prohibits most domestic abusers from possessing firearms. But even if an abuser is prohibited from having firearms, there is no law requiring them to relinquish the guns they may already have.

SB 192 would help enforce current law by requiring abusers to turn in their guns while they are prohibited from possessing them.

Officiating Haley's funeral and getting to know her family better has helped me appreciate how important this issue is. Watching Lincoln, a toddler who no longer has parents, play around at his mother's funeral was heartbreaking and demonstrated to all of us the permanent, devastating consequences of a momentary decision by Haley's partner. If guns were more difficult to obtain, and especially if known abusers were required to relinquish their weapons (as SB 192 calls for), perhaps more children like Lincoln would be able to grow up with their parents around.

On behalf of Haley, Lincoln, and their family, I encourage members of this committee to support SB 192 and vote YES on this life-saving bill.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide this written testimony.



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