

**CONGRESSMAN TRACEY MANN, 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
MEMBER DAY REMARKS  
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 22, 2021**

Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today about judicial priorities from the First District of Kansas, including the U.S. Department of Justice's investigation into cattle markets, immigration, and the Second Amendment.

Kansans are good people who carry a pioneering spirit with them, the same way those who settled my state did over 160 years ago. The people of the First District, aptly nicknamed the Big First, know each other, look out for each other, and sacrifice for each other. As Congress becomes increasingly more urban, rural districts like the Big First depend on strong voices in Congress – especially on some of the most significant issues facing our nation that are situated in the jurisdictional purview of this committee.

The Big First's backbone is agriculture; it is home to more than 60,000 farms and is made up of farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, and agribusiness owners who feed, fuel, and clothe the world. It ranks number one in the country for the value of cattle and calf sales at more than \$9 billion sold annually and is home to more than 4.4 million cattle and calves.

Cattle producers all over the country are facing challenging market dynamics, and Kansas cattle producers are especially concerned with the historically wide gap between wholesale beef prices and fed cattle prices. After several disruptive events in the meatpacking industry and allegations of malfeasance, the U.S. Department of Justice began an investigation into potentially anticompetitive practices. As of today, however, we have not seen any results from the investigation. No real response to our concerns. No real outcomes for ranchers across the country. **The U.S. Department of Justice needs to complete the investigation and release the results immediately. Producers in Kansas and across the country deserve to know if the investigation uncovered any issues.**

700 miles south of Kansas is our nation's southern border, and a full-scale crisis created by President Biden and his administration.

President Biden promised citizenship to more than 11 million immigrants, placed a shortsighted moratorium on deportations, rescinded policies that organized and controlled the flow of legal migrants, and halted the construction of the border wall system, even though Congress appropriated all the funds necessary for its completion. Predictably, the daily average of unaccompanied minors crossing the border has nearly doubled since 2019, Texas migrant facilities are well over 700% capacity, the number of migrants testing positive for COVID-19 after being released has nearly doubled, and communities on the border are at risk.

**This is a human tragedy, and to stop it, President Biden and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security need to end these disastrous policies, secure our borders, refuse to grant broad amnesty, and develop a legal immigration system that works.**

Over the last 9 months, Americans have become used to President Biden's home-grown crises. And, we're rightfully concerned – especially when it comes to our Constitutional rights like the right to bear arms. Our founding fathers believed this right to be so integral to freedom that they recorded it as the second amendment to the Constitution immediately after the right to free speech. It is a load bearing wall and cannot be destroyed.

President Biden recently penned 6 anti-Second Amendment executive actions in one day, banning homemade guns, defining a pistol as a short-barreled rifle allowing for more regulation, and mandating a report on gun gifting and trading. In interviews following the announcement, the White House stated, “The President will not wait for Congress to act before the administration takes our own steps, fully within the administration's authority and the Second Amendment.” We can no longer sit idle and watch dozens of executive orders from a single administration attempt to dictate the direction for our country with no input from Congress. Congress was created to legislate. Governing by executive order is not legislating.

**Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 716, the More Accountability is Necessary Now Act – requiring the executive branch to notify the American public and Congress with its intent to issue any new executive order pertaining to the rights of law-abiding Americans to own, carry, and use firearms guaranteed by the Second Amendment. Congress should swiftly pass this legislation.**

As your committee continues to work on legislation like this and other legislation within your circle of control, I ask that you ensure Americans in rural communities are part of the conversation. Their livelihoods are impacted by the decisions you make in this room, and when I see others playing fast and loose with their rights, I will always speak up on their behalf.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on the issues impacting the First District of Kansas. I yield back the remainder of my time.