

## Second Amendment resolution misrepresents

Dear Kanabec County residents,

The following resolution was adopted by the Kanabec County Board of Commissioners on March 3, 2020. It declares Kanabec County as a “Second Amendment Dedicated County.” It seems important that this document is shared publicly since it is representing our community. This is not a law. County law enforcement is still bound by their oath to uphold federal and state public safety laws.

This resolution is a one-sided example of what creates fear and division in communities. It pushes people into corners where they are not willing to find a compromise on emotionally charged issues. Although personal firearms are the focus of this resolution and the most controversial topic in the public safety debate, they are only a part of the solution of keeping us safe. All of our rights guaranteed by our constitution do have limits.

It would have been nice to have been given more lead time and content information prior to the March 3 meeting so that a more constructive response could have been given. What would happen if, instead, we adopted a county resolution that stated generally what we ALL might want collectively for the public safety of our community?

- A safe environment to live in that encourages respectful behavior
- A need to reduce gun-related deaths among all groups
- A demand for legislators to work together and find common ground for sensible, multi-faceted solutions to the complicated public safety issue.

That’s the kind of message we should be sending to our lawmakers.

**Peg and Marty Carlson, Dee Kotaska, Richard and Joyce Anderson, Laird Mork, Val Raivo, Karen and Paul Larson, Phil and Barb Schroeder, Jeanne McGrew, Gary Beckman, Dale Gagner**

## RESOLUTION OF KANABEC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**WHEREAS, the** Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed;”

**WHEREAS, the** United States Supreme Court in District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), affirmed an individual’s right to possess firearms, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home;

**WHEREAS, the** United States Supreme Court in McDonald v. Chicago, 561 U.S. 742 (2010), affirmed that the right of an individual to “keep and bear arms,” as protected under the Second Amendment, is incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment against the states;

**WHEREAS, the** United States Supreme Court in United States v. Miller, 307 U.S. 174 (1939), opined that firearms that are part of ordinary military equipment, or with use that could contribute to the common defense are protected by the Second Amendment;

**WHEREAS, the** People of Kanabec County, Minnesota, derive economic benefit from all safe forms of firearm recreation, hunting, and shooting conducted within Kanabec County using all types of firearms allowable under the United States Constitution;

**WHEREAS, certain** legislation that has or may be introduced in the Minnesota legislature, and certain legislation which has or may be introduced in the United States Congress could have the effect of infringing on the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution;

**WHEREAS, the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing on the rights of the citizens of Kanabec County to keep and bear arms;

**WHEREAS, the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Kanabec County to keep and bear arms;

**WHEREAS, the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of Kanabec County to keep and bear arms; and

**WHEREAS, the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its intent to stand as a County Dedicated to Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitution of the United States and the State of Minnesota, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the rights of the citizens of Kanabec County to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, the power to appropriate public funds, and the right to petition for redress of grievances.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Kanabec County Minnesota:

**That the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners hereby declares Kanabec County, Minnesota, as a “Second Amendment Dedicated County;”

**That the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Kanabec County, Minnesota;

**That the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its intent that public funds of the county not be used to restrict the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Kanabec County, or to aid federal or state agencies in the restriction of said right; and

**That the** Kanabec County Board of Commissioners hereby declares its intent to oppose any infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms using such legal means as may be expedient, including, without limitation, court action.