



## MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

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### **For Immediate Release**

The Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys is aware of the Order entered today by U.S. District Court Judge Brian Wimes holding that the Second Amendment Protection Act (SAPA) is unconstitutional, as it violates the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution.

When SAPA was being considered by the Missouri legislature in the 2020 session, Missouri prosecutors testified against the bill. We told legislators that, as drafted, the bill violated the Supremacy Clause. Missouri's prosecutors also opposed the bill because it prevented the effective investigation, prosecution, and punishment of serious offenders. Worse yet, the bill exposed state and local law enforcement officers to civil liability for simply doing their sworn jobs and trying to protect Missourians from violent criminals.

Despite the many specific and serious concerns voiced by Missouri prosecutors, other law enforcement organizations, and others about the bill, the legislature passed SAPA without much apparent concern about its negative effects.

Given today's ruling, Missouri's prosecutors and our state and local law enforcement partners look forward to again utilizing federal assistance when appropriate to apprehend and punish violent offenders who endanger the citizens of our state. Police and prosecutors will return to their work without fear of losing their jobs or being held liable personally to criminal offenders simply because they are doing vital work to keep our communities safe.

MAPA will continue to offer legislators the expertise and experience of its 115 members regarding bills affecting public safety. We hope legislators will avail themselves of that expertise and experience in an effort to pass bills that keep Missourians safe and pass Constitutional muster.