

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Date: March 22, 2023

Bill Number: HB 2304

Indicate Disposition: Opponent

Name of conferee: Leanna Barclay

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leanna Barclay and I am a resident of Shawnee Kansas. I am a mother and a grandmother. My grandson will be starting Kindergarten next Fall. While I understand the importance of educating children about gun safety, I stand in Opposition to HB 2304. There are several reasons I am opposed to this bill. To begin, the Eddie Eagle Program has been shown to be ineffective in clinical studies. Research has found that programs like Eddie Eagle Do NOT reduce the likelihood that children will mishandle guns. This program puts the responsibility on the child to stay safe from gun violence instead of on the adult gunowner where it belongs.

While safety training and more specifically, secure storage, is an important conversation to have with children and adults, HB 2304 does not prohibit the use of actual guns and ammunition during the course. This is dangerous and potentially traumatizing to our children, some of whom may have already experienced gun violence in their young lives. This causes me great concern.

Another issue I have with this legislation is that it specifies which program MUST be used if a school chooses to provide a gun safety course in their district. It takes away the local school district's ability to select the program it feels is best for its student body. The Kansas State Legislature should not be interfering with the curriculum of our public schools.

And lastly, instead of introducing a safety program that does not work into our schools, we should be addressing the cause of WHY our children are dying by gun violence. 5.4 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked. Access to these unsecured guns is the cause of the unintentional shootings involving our children. Research has shown that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with an 85% lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries and death among children. Adults can protect vulnerable children by properly securing their guns and making sure children never get unauthorized access to them. Secure Storage should be the focus on this gun safety issue. I ask you to Oppose HB 2304

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Leanna Barclay, Kansas Moms Demand Action Volunteer

Shawnee, Kansas

