

**Testimony on HB 2460 relating to Firearm Safety Education Programs
To
The House Committee on Federal and State Affairs**

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HB 2460 seeks to create a new statute relating to firearm safety education programs. **The Department supports the provisions of the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

The bill statutorily codifies current practices as to the permissive nature of firearm safety education programs but requires that those programs would follow the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program for grades kindergarten through eight and the Kansas Hunter Education program for grades 9 through 12. The Department's Hunter Education program currently has 800 active volunteer instructors teaching about 300 classes statewide consisting of approximately 9000 students. Currently, we have 63 middle and high schools conducting classes and some of those schools also include furharvester and bowhunter education.

Hunter Education consists of more than just firearm safety. Sections taught within include guns and ammo, boat firearm safety, safe storage, first aid, wildlife management, and game laws among others. Hunter Education was implemented in the early 1970's and has been an excellent program, reducing hunting incidents dramatically over time.

The Department would suggest an amendment to authorize hunter education in middle school as an alternative to Eddie Eagle Gunsafe because there are already hunter education classes being conducted in middle schools and to not allow those classes to continue and thrive would be a step backwards.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the Committee and requests favorable passage of the bill.