

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Kelly Mason

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONL

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 because the Eddie Eagle program is ineffective and misguided, and because it undermines control by local school boards.

It is ineffective because it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than on their parents and guardians.

It is misguided because it does not address the responsibility of adults to ensure guns are securely stored.

The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored; instead, it focuses on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and to tell an adult if they find one. It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns. The NRA has claimed the Eddie Eagle program is an alternative to secure storage bills. But the expert who the NRA enlisted to help revamp their program in 2015 has publicly said "I assure you, I wouldn't have anything to do with it" if she knew the NRA would push their program as an alternative to secure storage bills.

I urge you to vote no on this bill so that we can pursue better, more effective methods of preventing children from becoming victims of gun violence.

Thank you for your attention.

Kelly Mason

M-Y

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Lauren Nordell-Morris

TITLE: Johnson County, KS Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as The Eddie Eagle program is ineffective – it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians. Additionally, mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body.

Programs like the NRA's Eddie Eagle are all about teaching kids not to touch guns without asking and to tell an adult if they find one. But research shows that these programs don't really work. As someone who works in data analytics, facts, and research are a the basis of what I do day in and day out. Two studies from 2004 found that Eddie Eagle didn't stop kids from messing with guns when they found them. One of the studies showed that kids who went through a whole week of gun safety training were just as likely as kids with no training to play with a gun if they came across one. That is extremely scary. The American Academy of Pediatrics has also said the program doesn't actually work, and they are a very reputable source.

Please, I urge you, for the safety of families, and children in the state of Kansas, to vote **NO** on HB 2104. As a MOMs Demand Action volunteer, we have already worked hard in previous legislative years to make sure that the Eagle Eagle Bill does not see the light of day in schools. Programs like BE SMART (<https://besmartforkids.org/>) are non-partisan, fact based, and easy to follow, and puts the onus on parents, instead of kids.

Lauren Nordell-Morris

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Melanie Nordell-Morris

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT: WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes the local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body and should not be forced to use as mandated by the legislature.

This program puts the onus of responsibility on children instead of adults. The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored; instead, it focuses on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and to tell an adult if they find one. Adults have the responsibility to secure their guns and ensure no unauthorized access to them. It is not and will never be the responsibility of the child. Therefore, it is false for the NRA to claim that the Eddie Eagle program is an alternative to secure storage bills. The expert who the NRA enlisted to help revamp their program in 2015 has publicly said "I assure you; I wouldn't have anything to do with it" if she knew the NRA would push their program as an alternative to secure storage bills.

My niece has been a victim of gun violence *not once*, but *twice* during her senior year of school. Both times have been the result of irresponsible adults not securing their firearms. The local school boards should be able to make the curriculum decisions that best fit *their student body*, not forced to use a curriculum mandated by the legislature which this bill does. In the case of my niece's school board, they would be better suited to evaluate a firearm safety program that best fits her school's needs.

In closing, I am asking you to **vote no on HB 2104**.

Sincerely,

Melanie Nordell-Morris

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Tara Myers

TITLE: Kansas Citizen, pediatric nurse for over 23 years

EMAIL ADDRESS: tcfmyers@yahoo.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 due to the following concerns:

The Eddie Eagle program is ineffective – it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians. There are many adults who are not responsible with their firearms. Children are often killed by firearms not secured by adults.

This bill does not prohibit the use of actual guns and ammunition during the course. This is dangerous and potentially traumatizing to our children.

Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body and forces the curriculum created by an organization that profits on gun sales!

The NRA's Eddie Eagle curriculum is ineffective. Programs like the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle merely focus on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and only to tell an adult if they find one, but studies have shown that programs like that, which train children what to do after they find an unsecured firearm, are not effective.

Two 2004 studies found that the Eddie Eagle program was ineffective in discouraging young children from handling unsecured firearms. One study found that young children who go through a week-long gun safety training are just as likely as children with no training to play with a handgun when they find one. **The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics.**

As a mother and pediatric nurse, I ask you to vote no on HB 2104.

Tara Myers
Shawnee

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Adrienne Newlin

Kansas citizen; parent

HB 2104

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:

Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as has been shared many times in the past, this is not something Kansans want to see in our state. The Eddie Eagle program is ineffective – it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians. This bill does not prohibit the use of actual guns and ammunition during the course. This is dangerous and potentially traumatizing to our children. Our local school boards are fully capable of determining appropriate programs for our students.

Children are curious by nature, their brains are not fully developed, they cannot possibly be the ones responsible for proper gun safety. This bill is dangerous and irresponsible. You should be focusing your efforts on secure storage. This program puts the onus of responsibility on children, instead of adults. The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored; instead, it focuses on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and to tell an adult if they find one. It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns. The NRA has claimed the Eddie Eagle program is an alternative to secure storage bills. But the expert who the NRA enlisted to help revamp their program in 2015 has publicly said "I assure you, I wouldn't have anything to do with it" if she knew the NRA would push their program as an alternative to secure storage bills.

Vote NO on HB 2104.

Adrienne Newlin

Overland Park, KS

HB 2104 Opposition Testimony (Written-Only)

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Joseph Nicholas

TITLE: Private Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: joseph.h.nicholas@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

DATE OF HEARING: February 5, 2025

Chair Kessler & members of the committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2104, which would mandate the use of the NRA's Eddie Eagle program for firearm safety education in Kansas schools. While firearm safety is important, this bill removes local control from school boards, preventing them from evaluating and selecting the program that best fits their students' needs.

Forcing a one-size-fits-all approach undermines the ability of educators, parents, and local leaders to make decisions based on their communities. Schools should have the freedom to choose firearm safety programs based on evidence-based research, rather than being required to use a program affiliated with a political advocacy organization.

I urge you to oppose HB 2104 and support policies that allow school districts to make their own curriculum decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joseph Nicholas

Leawood, 66206

Dear Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

I respectfully write to you as a Kansas voter, teacher and mother to ask that you oppose House Bill 2104. We have all seen the heartbreaking tragedies that occur every year when children encounter an unsecured gun. The intention to stop these tragic shootings is a good one, but there are several reasons why passing this bill would be a misguided effort.

1. The Eddie Eagle program has been proven to be ineffective in deterring children from handling guns when they encounter them unexpectedly. Studies show that even when children are able to repeat the Eddie Eagle message, this does not translate into applying the message in real life situations. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/14702451/>

2. Experiments have shown that children will follow their natural curiosity when they encounter guns even after following the Eddie Eagle program.
<https://abcnews.go.com/2020/video/young-kids-guns-parents-22325589>

3. The responsibility for keeping children safe from guns should be on the adults. The most dangerous aspect of the Eddie Eagle program is that it gives parents a false sense of security that their children will know how to handle guns, instead of informing parents how to store firearms safely in the first place and of their responsibility to do so so that a child is never put in that dangerous position.

4. Local school districts should control decisions about what materials to use to implement their curriculum, as they do on other subjects. That is one of the reasons this bill was opposed by the Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas National Education Association (KNEA) when it has been proposed in the past.

5. Parents should choose when and where this topic is introduced, especially if their family has had traumatic experiences with guns. There are other programs available for parents and their local schools to choose from. What might be right for one family and one community, may not be right for another.

I hope you will agree that, in this matter of life and death regarding children, partisanship should be set aside and you should do the right thing for Kansas children. Our children's lives are too important to be used to play favorites with the NRA or any other organization.

I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 2104.

Claudia Olea

Lawrence, Kansas

NAME: Robin Olson

TITLE: Kansas Citizen, MS

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

Dear Chairman Kessler, Committee members, Senator Sykes and Representative Williams,
I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 because:

- Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body. Educators, not paid NRA developers, know how children learn and how to effectively teach them.
- School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

This program puts the responsibility to maintain gun safety on children, instead of adults. The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored; instead, it focuses on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and to tell an adult if they find one. It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns. The NRA has claimed the Eddie Eagle program is an alternative to secure storage bills. The expert who the NRA enlisted to help revamp their program in 2015 has publicly said "I assure you, I wouldn't have anything to do with it" if she knew the NRA would push their program as an alternative to secure storage bills. One study found that young children who go through a week-long gun safety training are just as likely as children with no training to play with a handgun when they find one. The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Thank you for voting no on HB 2104 and allowing school districts to evaluate and choose curriculum that fits their student population.

Sincerely,
Robin Olson

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Kelsey Ploeger

TITLE: Kansas Citizen, Mother, Educator

EMAIL ADDRESS: kelseyploeger@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as the Eddie Eagle program is ineffective – it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians. As a parent, I'm concerned that this bill does not prohibit the use of actual guns and ammunition during the course. This is dangerous and potentially traumatizing to our children.

Programs like the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle merely focus on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and only to tell an adult if they find one, but studies have shown that programs like that, which train children what to do after they find an unsecured firearm, are not effective. Two 2004 studies found that the Eddie Eagle program was ineffective in discouraging young children from handling unsecured firearms. One study found that young children who go through a week-long gun safety training are just as likely as children with no training to play with a handgun when they find one. The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As I prepare for my child to start school in the coming years, I want to make sure he is not exposed unnecessarily to firearms via an ineffective program. To this end, I implore you to vote no on HB 2104.

Kelsey Ploeger
Roeland Park, KS

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Claudia Patrick

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: cpatrick9501@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 because the Eddie Eagle program is ineffective it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians.

Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body. School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

I oppose HB 2104 because it takes away local control from school districts and is ineffectual. I ask you to vote No on HB 2104.

Claudia Patrick

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Lauren Proffer

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body. School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

Programs like the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle merely focus on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and only to tell an adult if they find one, but studies have shown that programs like that, which train children what to do after they find an unsecured firearm, are not effective. Two 2004 studies found that the Eddie Eagle program was ineffective in discouraging young children from handling unsecured firearms. One study found that young children who go through a week-long gun safety training are just as likely as children with no training to play with a handgun when they find one. The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

This bill usurps the authority of the elected officers of local school boards to make curriculum decisions. This bill favors a particular lobbyist's program above that of other organizations. Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body. School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

In closing, kindly vote no on HB 2104.

Lauren Proffer

Dr. Carl Reed, Manhattan

cm_reed@cox.net

Bill Number HB 2104

OPPOSE

Written testimony only:

Members of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I'm writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104.

This bill is corrupt on the face of it. An organization has a training product it wants to introduce to the public, so its agent convinces an elected official to proclaim that only that product may be used in public schools. If it were a good program, school officials would be attracted to it and would not have to be forced to consider it by the Kansas legislature. This is the definition of corruption.

The Eddie Eagle program is simply a way for the NRA to introduce its product to American children. Many parents may not want guns to be taught to their children.

The bill creates a situation wherein irresponsible gun owners can shirk the blame for poor safety practices. It places the liability for correct behavior on children, not adults.

Research has shown that for young children, the fact that a child remembers a rule does not mean that he or she will behave as the rule dictates. Putting the onus on children instead of adults is bad policy.

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Margaret Hofmeister Ronning

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as written in the attached testimony.

- The Eddie Eagle program is ineffective – it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians.
- The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored.
- This bill does not prohibit the use of actual guns and ammunition during the course. This is dangerous and potentially traumatizing to our children.
- Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body.
- School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

The NRA's Eddie Eagle curriculum is ineffective and traumatizing for children

Programs like the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle merely focus on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and only to tell an adult if they find one, but studies have shown that programs like that, which train children what to do after they find an unsecured firearm, are not effective. Two 2004 studies found that the Eddie Eagle program was ineffective in discouraging young children from handling unsecured firearms. One study found that young children who go through a week-long gun safety training are just as likely as children with no training to play with a handgun when they find one. The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored; instead, it focuses on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and to tell an adult if they find one. **My father was a WWII Vet. According to him, guns are meant for one thing only. That is killing. There is no room for this in any school system and our politicians are keeping this possibility in our schools with programs like this.** It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns. The NRA has claimed the Eddie Eagle program is an alternative to secure storage bills. But the expert who the NRA enlisted to help revamp their program in 2015 has publicly said "I assure you, I wouldn't have anything to do with it" if she knew the NRA would push their program as an alternative to secure storage bills.

This bill strips control of curriculum from local school districts]

This bill usurps the authority of the elected officers of local school boards to make curriculum decisions. This bill favors a particular lobbyist's program above that of other organizations. Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body. School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

In closing, please vote no on HB 2104

Sincerely,
Margaret Hofmeister Ronning

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Kaitlyn Schnackenberg

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: kaitlyn.jones1231@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 for several reasons, stated below.

- The Eddie Eagle program is ineffective – it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians.
- The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult’s responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored.
- Mandating the NRA’s Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body.

As a parent to two small children, the oldest of which starts Kindergarten next fall, I would be appalled if Eddie the Eagle was what was used to keep him safe at school. It does not work.

I grew up in the age of school shootings. My biggest fear starting high school was Columbine. “Where would I run? How would I exit the library?” I’ve watched as the violence continued to grow. Columbine, Sandy Hook, Uvalde... the victims getting younger and younger, but still nothing is being done. And now it’s my children on the line. I will no longer sit silently.

Gun violence is my number one fear as a Kansas parent.

Programs like the National Rifle Association’s Eddie Eagle merely focus on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and only to tell an adult if they find one, but studies have shown that programs like that, which train children what to do after they find an unsecured firearm, are not effective. Two 2004 studies found that the Eddie Eagle program was ineffective in discouraging young children from handling unsecured firearms. One study found that young children who go through a week-long gun safety

training are just as likely as children with no training to play with a handgun when they find one. The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

This bill usurps the authority of the elected officers of local school boards to make curriculum decisions. This bill favors a particular lobbyist's program above that of other organizations. Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body. School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

This has gone on far too long. It is a bi-partisan public safety issue. Please vote no on HB 2104.

Kaitlyn Schnackenberg
Olathe

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Debra J. Schneider

TITLE: Educator and Kansas Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: written testimony

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as

- The Eddie Eagle program is ineffective – it focuses on the wrong things, placing the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians.
 - The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored.
 - This bill does not prohibit the use of actual guns and ammunition during the course. This is dangerous and potentially traumatizing to our children.
 - Mandating the NRA's Eddie Eagle program removes local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their student body.
-
- School districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

Programs like the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle merely focus on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and only to tell an adult if they find one, but studies have shown that programs like that, which train children what to do after they find an unsecured firearm, are not effective. Two 2004 studies found that the Eddie Eagle program was ineffective in discouraging young children from handling unsecured firearms. One study found that young children who go through a week-long gun safety training are just as likely as children with no training to play with a handgun when they find one. The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics. As a parent of adult children and now grandchildren, I don't want them being exposed to NRA rhetoric. Stronger, more effective gun safety education is needed and not one sponsored by the NRA

I am asking you to vote NO on HB 2104

Debra J. Schneider

Name: Lindsay Stephenson
TITLE: Kansas Citizen
BILL NUMBER: HB 2104
OPPONENT
WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2104, which mandates that public school students participate in the National Rifle Association's (NRA) "Eddie Eagle" program. The safety and well-being of Kansas children should be the top priority of lawmakers, not allegiance to the gun lobby. Research has repeatedly shown that the Eddie Eagle program is ineffective and places the burden of gun safety on children rather than where it belongs—on adults.

Studies have demonstrated that children who receive gun safety training, including through programs like Eddie Eagle, are just as likely to handle unsecured firearms as those who receive no training at all. The American Academy of Pediatrics has deemed this program ineffective because it does not address the root issue—ensuring that firearms are securely stored out of children's reach. Responsible firearm storage, not child-focused safety programs, is the most effective way to prevent unintentional shootings and firearm-related tragedies.

If lawmakers are serious about protecting children from gun violence, they should support policies that emphasize secure firearm storage. Research shows that storing firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition significantly reduces the risk of accidental shootings and suicides among children and teens. Tragically, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Kansas, and nearly half of these deaths are suicides. Ensuring firearms are securely stored could save lives.

This bill disregards the fundamental role of families in making decisions about firearm ownership and safety. Many students have already endured traumatic experiences with gun violence, and mandating an NRA-endorsed program only exacerbates their distress. Rather than prioritizing students' well-being, this initiative imposes a controversial ideology that could be deeply triggering. At a time when mental health challenges among young people are at an all-time high, introducing firearms into their education does nothing to safeguard their well-being or prevent self-harm.

The NRA has used the Eddie Eagle program as a smokescreen to oppose common-sense secure storage legislation. Even an expert enlisted to help revamp the program in 2015 has since publicly stated that they would not have participated had they known it would be used as an alternative to secure storage laws. Rather than pushing ineffective programs, the Kansas Legislature should advocate for evidence-based policies that prevent gun-related tragedies and save lives.

I urge you to oppose HB 2104 and instead support measures that promote responsible gun ownership, including secure storage laws and educational programs that focus on adult responsibility. Kansas children deserve real protection—not ineffective programs designed to serve the interests of the gun lobby.

Please vote no on HB2104

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Stephenson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsay A Stephenson

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Lisa McGahey Veglahn

TITLE: Kansas Voter

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to HB 2104 because firearms are the LEADING cause of death for children in the United States. Yet the The Eddie Eagle program places the responsibility of gun safety on children rather than their parents and guardians by not addressing the basic task that gun owners should have to ensure guns are securely stored. And mandating one specific program, developed by the nation's major gun lobby, takes away local control from school boards to determine the curriculum that best fits the needs of their community.

Programs like the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle merely focus on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and only to tell an adult if they find one, but studies have shown that programs like that, which train children what to do after they find an unsecured firearm, are not effective. The Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and more than half of American gun owners do not practice safe firearm storage.

Many of my friends are gun owners and they all value safe storage for those weapons. None of them would ever expect an educational program to teach children that it is the child's responsibility to even think about accessing an unsecured firearm.

PLEASE vote no on HB 2104.

Lisa McGahey Veglahn

Prairie Village, KS 66208

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Sherri Williams

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored. I also believe that school districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature.

The Eddie Eagle program does not address the adult's responsibility to ensure guns are securely stored; instead, it focuses on teaching children not to touch guns without permission and to tell an adult if they find one. I sincerely believe it is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns. We are gun owners in our home and have always kept them secured and stored in a responsible way to keep our children safe but sadly not every adult does. The NRA has claimed the Eddie Eagle program is an alternative to secure storage bills. But the expert who the NRA enlisted to help revamp their program in 2015 has publicly said "I assure you, I wouldn't have anything to do with it" if she knew the NRA would push their program as an alternative to secure storage bills.

I implore you to please vote no HB2104 and keep our children and communities safe.

Sincerely,
Sherri Williams, Leavenworth Constituent

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Amanda Winch

TITLE: Parent, Life-long Kansan

EMAIL ADDRESS: amanda.winch@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN-ONLY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

My name is Amanda Winch, and I am a lifelong Kansan and a parent of young children. I am submitting testimony today to strongly oppose HB 2104, which mandates the use of the NRA's Eddie Eagle curriculum for gun safety education in our schools. As someone who prioritizes the safety of my children and future generations, I find this bill misguided and ineffective in addressing the real issue of gun safety.

The Eddie Eagle program fails at its stated goal. Rather than emphasizing the responsibility of adults to store firearms safely, it places the burden of gun safety on children. Research has shown that young children lack the cognitive ability to reliably follow safety instructions in real-world scenarios, making this program ineffective at preventing gun-related accidents. Instead of mandating ineffective curricula, lawmakers should focus on policies that emphasize safe firearm storage by parents and guardians. If the goal is truly to protect children, then the Legislature should pass laws requiring firearms to be stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition.

Additionally, HB 2104 undermines local control by imposing a one-size-fits-all approach on school districts. Kansas has long valued local decision-making in education, and this bill disregards that principle by forcing schools to adopt a specific curriculum rather than allowing them to choose the most effective method for their communities.

The NRA has long promoted Eddie Eagle as a responsible gun safety program, but in reality, it serves as a propaganda tool rather than a genuine public safety initiative. A study on gun storage practices found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition had an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teenagers compared to those that locked neither. Real safety measures focus on responsible adult behavior, not placing undue responsibility on children.

As a parent, I want my children to be safe, and that safety starts with responsible adult action. HB 2104 fails to address the real dangers of unsecured firearms and could give parents a false

sense of security while doing little to prevent tragedies. I urge you to reject this bill in favor of real, evidence-based policies that keep Kansas children safe from gun violence.

Please vote NO on HB 2104.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Winch
Overland Park, KS

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Erin Woods

TITLE: private citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opposition to HB 2104.

Quite simply, this bill usurps local control from our elected school boards. They are the ones who are tasked with choosing for curriculum. In all other subject areas, our school districts task a group of individuals (usually the teachers working with the particular subject matter and who know their students) with the work of evaluating a variety of curriculum to meet their goals and to determine the best fit for their student body.

Those groups are then given the opportunity to present their findings and recommendations to the school board. This is the work that should be done in choosing curriculum.

It is unacceptable for the legislature to push one organization's agenda and curriculum onto our school districts.

Please vote no on HB 2104.

Thank you,

Erin Woods

February 6, 2025

Testimony to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

NAME: Julia Young

TITLE: Citizen

BILL NUMBER: HB 2104

OPPONENT

WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Kessler and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 2104 as school districts that wish to offer a firearm safety program should have the ability to evaluate and determine which curriculum best fits their needs, not forced to use curriculum mandated by the legislature. The Eddie Eagle program places all responsibility on the child to leave firearms alone and does not carry any responsibility for adults to safely secure firearms out of the reach of children. Two 2004 studies found that the Eddie Eagle program was ineffective in discouraging young children from handling unsecured firearms. In addition, the Eddie Eagle program has been deemed ineffective by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

I urgently ask you to **VOTE NO** on HB 2104.

Sincerely,

Julia Young

Overland Park, Kansas