

House Federal and State Affairs Committee

HB 2104

Opponent, In-person testimony

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2104. This bill requires the State Board of Education to establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized firearm safety education program for grades K through 12 in Kansas.

I am pleased to see that the importance of local control is recognized in the first sentence of the bill when it states “the board of education of a school district **may** provide firearm safety education programs”. The fact is school districts may already do that, and many already do. They can even offer the training as an elective course if they wish. They do not need legislative permission to do so; and they can choose the curriculum that works for their students.

It is the purview of the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBOE) to set curricular standards. It is the purview of local boards of education to determine the curriculum to be used to meet those standards. What is needed for elective firearm safety training across the state does not have a “one-size-fits-all” answer. Local districts are already welcome to do firearm safety training and can choose the curriculum that best fits their community needs. I am not aware of any requests from local school districts for standards on firearm safety training from either KSBOE or the Legislature during the eight years I spent on the KSBOE. Further, it may very well be that there are any number of firearm safety training programs besides those mandated in the bill that will meet a school district’s needs.

Just as textbook companies provide information to school districts in other curricular areas, the program providers listed in the bill have the same opportunity. The decision is then up to locally elected board members if they wish to implement those programs. Since locally elected board members are already able to implement elective firearm safety education programs, there is no need for legislation.