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John R. Whitmer  
Representative, 93rd District

Testimony to the House Federal & State Affairs Committee  
In Support of HB 2460

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of HB 2460. The genesis for this bill came from a conversation I had with former Minority Leader Burroughs who carried very similar legislation on the House floor a few years ago, He and I share a similar concern, that children should be educated about what to do if and when they encounter firearms.

The bill establishes that a board of education of a school district **MAY** provide firearm safety education programs for students. For students enrolled in grades one through eight, the program shall be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program or any successor program; and for students enrolled in grades nine through 12, it shall be based on the hunter education programs offered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife.

The Eddie Eagle program is a gun accident prevention program that seeks to help parents, law enforcement, community groups and educators navigate a topic paramount to our children's safety, namely what to do if they ever come across a gun. It is comprised of four basic steps:

**STOP!:** This first step is crucial. Stopping first allows the child the time he or she needs to remember the rest of the safety instructions.

**DON'T TOUCH:** A firearm that is not touched or disturbed is unlikely to be fired and otherwise endanger your child or other people.

**RUN AWAY:** This removes the temptation to touch the firearm as well as the danger that another person may negligently cause it to fire.

**TELL A GROWN-UP:** Children should seek a trustworthy adult, neighbor, relative or teacher – if a parent or guardian is not available.

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program, recently reached it's 30 millionth child. Created in 1988 by past NRA President Marion P. Hammer, in consultation with elementary school teachers, law

enforcement officers and child psychologists, the program provides children with simple, effective rules to follow should they encounter a firearm in an unsupervised setting.

More than 26,000 educators, law enforcement agencies, and civic organizations have taught the program since 1988. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, incidental firearm-related deaths among children in Eddie Eagle's targeted age group have declined more than 80 percent since the program's launch.

For those students in the upper grades The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Tourism offers a unique program to any school in Kansas- The Hunter Education In Our Schools Program.

Available at no cost to schools, the optional course offers participating students the opportunity to obtain hunter education certification required of anyone born on or after July 1, 1957, before hunting in Kansas.

The Kansas Hunter Education in Our Schools Program fits several school curriculum standards

Science in Personal and Environmental Perspective

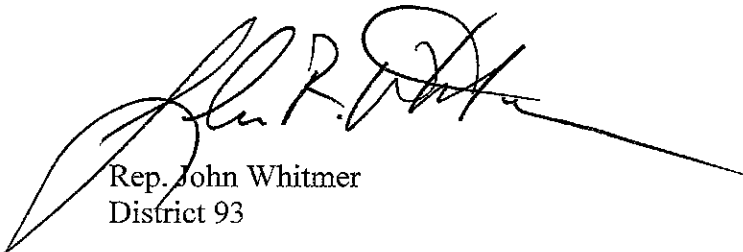
Civics-Government

Kansas, United States and World History

Physical Education

Unintentional firearm injuries threaten the safety of children in Kansas, it is my hope this legislation will help reduce that risk.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify this morning, I'd be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.



Rep. John Whitmer  
District 93



**KIDS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU EVER  
COME ACROSS A GUN?**



**STOP  
DON'T TOUCH  
RUN AWAY  
TELL A GROWN-UP**

Hi! I'm Eddie Eagle, and this is the Wing Team! We're here to teach you an important lesson about gun safety. If you haven't watched our special video yet, be sure to visit the Eddie Eagle Tree House to check it out! The Tree House also has more fun activities like sing-alongs, coloring pages and my favorite—the Wing Team Challenge!

Visit [www.eddieeagle.com](http://www.eddieeagle.com) to get started.