

SB 522

Jason Watkins

Kansas State Rifle Association

In Person, Proponent

jason@wsks.us

Kansas State Rifle Association

Testimony In support of S.B 522

March 7, 2022

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kansas State Rifle Association, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of S.B. 522; AN ACT concerning education; relating to firearms; standardizing firearm safety education training programs in school districts;

This legislation would require that schools offering firearms safety program use a curriculum developed by the Kansas Board of Education designed around the Eddie Eagle Firearms Safety program and the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Hunter Safety program.

For grades K- 8 The Eddie Eagle GunSafe program is a gun accident prevention program developed by a task force made up of educators, school administrators, curriculum specialists, urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists, law enforcement officials and National Rifle Association firearm safety experts. It began in 1988 with one mission: teach children four simple, easy to remember steps so they know what to do if they ever come across a gun. In 2015 the NRA introduced a fresh, new Eddie and added some friends—his Wing Team. Though Eddie has evolved, his mission has not. In a video, Eddie and his friends remind children that if they see a gun, they need to **Stop! Don't touch. Run away. Tell a grown-up.**

We talk about stranger danger, Internet safety, fire drills and more with children...so why not include gun safety? The program makes no value judgments about firearms, no firearms are ever used, and it covers an important topic that needs to be addressed with kids. Like swimming pools, electrical outlets and matchbooks, firearms are simply treated as a part of everyday life. With firearms found in about half of all American households, it's a stance that makes sense.

For grades 9-12 the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks offers a program that allows students to gain their Hunter's Safety certification.

The Kansas State Rifle Association believes both of these programs benefit students and the greater Kansas community and urges the Committee to report S.B. 522 favorable for passage.