

**Institute for Legislative Action**

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**NRA**

March 4, 2022

The Honorable Robert Olson

Room: 136-E

300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Olson:

On behalf of our members in Kansas, this letter is our written-only proponent testimony for Senate Bill 522, which helps teach our children gun safety. Since 1871, a major objective of the National Rifle Association has been to provide education and training in the safe and proper use of firearms.

With everything going on in the world right now, and violence all over social media, we need to educate our children about safety. Firearms are found in approximately 40% of American households. Even if there are no guns in your own home, there may be guns in the homes of friends that your children visit. To ensure their safety, our children must be trained on what to do if they encounter a firearm.

The Eddie Eagle program has no agenda other than accident prevention -- ensuring that children stay safe should they encounter a gun. Since their introduction in 1996, there are over 500 active Eddie Eagle Mascot Costumes teaching children Eddie's GunSafe message across the United States. Over 365,000 children in Kansas have received Eddie Eagle's life-saving message since the program's inception. SB 522 enables the Eddie Eagle program to continue to reach more children. This bill standardizes firearm safety education training programs across school districts in Kansas.

For the foregoing reasons, NRA supports SB 522. Finally, I'd like to thank the sponsors of this bill for their leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Travis Couture-Lovelady

Kansas State Director

NRA-ILA

CC: Senator Richard Hilderbrand  
Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau  
Senator Cindy Holscher  
Senator Rick Kloos  
Senator Jeff Longbine  
Senator Mike Petersen  
Senator Ronald Ryckman  
Senator Alicia Straub