

March 7, 2022 10:30 AM

Kansas State Senate- Federal and State Affairs Committee Hearing

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SB 522

Standardizing Firearm Safety Education Programing in School Districts

OPPONANT

Written Testimony- ONLY

Good morning, Chairman Olson, Committee members, and staff. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Leanna Barclay and I live in Shawnee, Kansas.

I am testifying today because I do not support SB 522.

Firearm safety is certainly an important conversation to have with our children. Of course, the best way to keep our children safe from unintentional shootings is to store guns securely with ammunition separate. This means they should be unloaded and locked. Keeping our children out of harm's way is the responsibility of the adult gun owner. We all know that children are curious and will find things their parents don't want them to find. The onus is on the adult to keep a child safe when a gun is in the home.

Unfortunately, the program listed in SB 522 has not been proven to keep kids safe. Studies have shown that children will handle a gun in an unsupervised situation even when they have been instructed otherwise. Their curiosity and fascination get the better of them in spite of lessons teaching them to leave it alone and get an adult. Bottom line, it is the adult's responsibility to not place the firearm within the child's reach.

Another reason I do not support SB 522 is that it does not prohibit students from using actual guns and ammunition during the training course. This is really dangerous and totally unnecessary.

I urge the members of this committee to vote NO on SB 522. We can do better than this.

Thank you.