

Kansas House Federal & State Affairs Committee

Feb. 19, 2023,

My name is Katie Mangelsdorf, I am a resident of Lenexa, Kansas, a graduate of Kansas public schools and a parent of graduates as well as a current student.

I am writing today in OPPOSITION to HB 2304 "Standardizing firearms safety programs in school districts"

I oppose this bill for several reasons.

- School curriculum should not be dictated by the state legislature and should remain in the hands of the board of education. No one has requested this legislation and it is already an option for local boards to adopt firearm safety training if they so choose.
- Requirement of adoption of the NRA's "gun safety" plan is particularly problematic for many reasons including that it puts the requirement on children on what to do in finding an unsecured weapon. Multiple studies have found the training to be inadequate and that children who go through the training are just as likely as children who have not gone through the training to play with a weapon if one is found. It is ineffective and frankly, just marketing the NRA to children.
- Kansas currently has no training requirements for adults and no requirements to safely store their weapons. THAT is where the focus should be. Adults are the ones responsible if a child encounters a weapon. This issue could be properly addressed through Safe Storage bills (SB 137 / HB 2403)
- In Kansas 68% of gun deaths are suicides. Access to a firearm triples the risk of dying by suicide. Safe storage practices such as keeping guns unlocked, unloaded and separate from ammunition decrease suicide risks. Suicidal crises can be brief, securely storing guns can be an effective barrier between the suicidal impulse and action.
- My children are of the generation that has lived with school shootings their entire lives. Up to 80% of school shooters under age 18 get their guns from their own homes, or homes of their relatives and friends. This program does nothing to address this crisis as it exists. Safe storage requirements are an appropriate way to address these concerns.

Please consider this when reviewing this bill and vote NO on HB 2304.

Thank you.

Katie Mangelsdorf

8025 Lichtenauer Dr

Lenexa KS 66219

Mangelsdorf.katie@gmail.com

913-269-1695

