

3/17/2023  
HB2304  
Opponent  
Claudia Patrick  
Self

Good afternoon Chairman Thompson, Committee members, and staff. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Claudia Patrick

My husband has been a law enforcement officer in Kansas for 33 years. We raised two children in a gun-safe home because as responsible gun owners we locked up the guns and ammunition in lock boxes Every Day. I am testifying today because gun safety and safe storage are important conversations to have with children. But ultimately it is the parent's responsibility to keep their children safe.

HB 2304 puts the responsibility for gun safety on the child and not the adult. The Eddie Eagle training program has NOT been proven to help keep our kids safe. Allowing children access to unsecured guns puts them at risk of unintentional shootings. I agree we need gun safety training but we need to train gun owners to keep guns and ammunition locked away and not put the onus on children.

Here in Wyandotte Co, we experienced an unintentional shooting just last fall. Roman Andrews found an unsecured gun in his home and unintentionally killed himself. His death affects more than just his family. The impact is felt in the community, by his friends, and by the first responders who had to treat him. They will all live with the image of a 4-year-old who was killed by a firearm Because an adult didn't store their gun securely in the home.

The bottom line is that research shows that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with an 85% lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children.

I encourage committee members to oppose HB 2304 and vote NO on this bill.  
This concludes my testimony. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here today.

Claudia Patrick  
Moms Demand Action Volunteer