



21 February 2023

Re: HB 2304

Dear Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the House Bill 2304. House Bill 2304 would limit firearm accident prevention education to the Eddie Eagle program for grades kindergarten through 5th, the KDWP Hunter Education program for grades 9 through 12, or use either program for grades 6 through 8. SCI strongly supports the bill.

Recruitment of hunters is critical for the long-term success of wildlife and recruitment is one leg of the overall National R3 Initiative, to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing recruitment and opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation.

Hunter education has been a very effective program for reducing hunting incidents over the last approximately 50 years. But hunter education teaches far more than safe firearms handling. Additional topics include wildlife management, field safety, wildlife identification, basic first aid and conservation funding. Students may not become lifelong hunters after taking the course without a mentor but will have a better understanding of firearm safety and the necessity of hunting and funding conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 2304. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and is first for hunters.

Sincerely,

Sven Lindquist
President
Safari Club International