



MORIAH DAY

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February 6, 2025

Re: NSSF Support for HB 2104; Firearm Safety Education

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American firearm industry, I request that you support HB 2104, legislation that promises to provide essential safety education to young Kansans. If any legislation should receive broad bipartisan support in a time of wide political division and disagreement, this is it.

Our industry analyzes and reports adjusted NICS background check data on a monthly basis. January numbers released this week show an increase of 0.9 percent compared to January of 2024. January of 2025 marks the 66th month in a row where NICS checks have exceeded 1 million adjusted background checks in a single month.

While it is impossible to draw a one-to-one correlation between background checks initiated through NICS and actual firearm sales numbers, these numbers remain a valuable insight into the explosion in firearm ownership among new segments of the population especially starting around the beginning of COVID when safety concerns were very high.

More broadly, NSSF estimates that there are over 26.2 million new first-time gun owners in America since 2020. For comparison, that's more than the population of Florida. NSSF's most recent survey of firearm retailers showed that there were over 3.9 million first time gun buyers in 2024 alone. Thirty percent of first-time gun buyers in 2024 were under the age of 30 and over 29 percent were women. Firearm retailers surveyed reported significant increases among White women, Black men and women, Hispanic men and women, and Asian men and women.

While I don't see gun control advocates moving away from their promotion of an inaccurate caricature of firearm owners anytime soon, market data shows that firearms are being lawfully purchased and owned in larger numbers than ever and that new firearm owners are more and more representative of the population as a whole.

For the firearm industry's part, we'll continue to welcome new gun owners from all walks of life. NSSF's **Faces of Firearms™** (facesoffirearms.org) campaign demonstrates that regardless of what Americans look like, how they speak or where they're from, we all share common values. We value our rights and our commitment to **Real Solutions. Safer Communities®** (nssfrealolutions.org).

It is no accident that our state and the country as a whole have experienced record low numbers of accidental firearm-related deaths in recent years, all while the numbers of firearm owners and civilian-owned firearms have never been greater. I am referring to pure numbers, not rates.

According to data from the CDC, firearms are involved in 0.2 percent of all unintentional fatalities across all ages, and 1.9 percent of all unintentional fatalities among children. While numbers obviously fluctuate a little from year to year, from 1991 to 2021 firearm related accidental fatalities have decreased 61% (1,441 to 549). For an apples-to-apples comparison

with my previous comments about the explosion in firearm ownership, firearm production in the US increased 407.5% (4,145,349 to 21,037,810) over that same period.

We are, of course, aiming for zero accidental firearm fatalities and we have made great progress since the establishment of initiatives like **Project ChildSafe®** (projectchildsafe.org) and programs offered by other organizations. This point simply cannot be stressed enough. The modern record of firearm safety is truly extraordinary.

Organizations like ours, the National Rifle Association, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks have expended untold resources to teach children and adults how to be exceptionally safe with their firearms. History and experience show that education must be encouraged, not suppressed. HB 2104 encourages it. Sadly, we have entered a time when standards must be explicitly stated to avoid allowing anti-firearm activists to weaponize firearm safety education to further a particular agenda.

The most radical opponents of firearm rights in the country persistently claim more guns owned by citizens will always mean more violent crime and more accidental deaths. Both are demonstrably false using hard statistics collected and reported by the U.S. government. My assertion is not based on a tiny snapshot in time, a favorite tactic these radicals use in their "research," but data collected by agencies like the FBI and CDC over decades.

Americans are safer with their firearms than other common, potentially dangerous possessions in the home. Gun owners deserve immense praise, not scorn. However, safety education efforts must continue and grow, especially with millions of new individuals purchasing firearms for the first time. They cannot be suppressed and discouraged due to the political agendas of the most radical elements in our society.

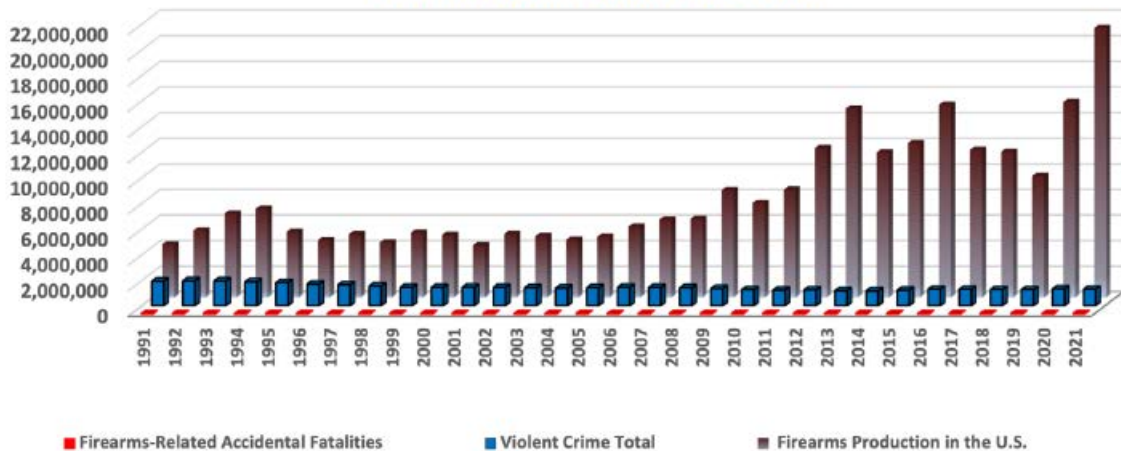
No matter how much some might want to simply wish guns away, that is not going to happen. Americans are buying firearms at unprecedented rates. This is the reality. Let us do as much as possible to provide voluntary firearm safety education, especially to vulnerable young people.

Please support HB 2104 in committee and on the floor.

Sincerely,

Moriah Day

FIREARMS-RELATED ACCIDENTAL FATALITIES, VIOLENT CRIME, AND FIREARMS PRODUCTION IN THE U.S. STATISTICS COMPARISON 1991-2021



Sources: CDC [WISQARS](#) database, FBI Crime Data Explorer, and the ATF Annual Firearms Manufacture and Export Reports (AFMER), and Import and Export data from USITC.