

Date: 2/6/2025

Bill number: HB2104

Proponent Tammy Bartels Speaking for myself and Women For Gun Rights

Chairman Kessler and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 2104. I am a resident of Lawrence Kansas, a certified firearms instructor, a mother, and a grandmother. I am here speaking not only as myself but also as the Kansas State Director of Women for Gun Rights and the Training Committee CO-Chair of the Kansas State Rifle Association. I am also a longtime advocate of public schools in the state of Kansas.

I know the value of education in general, and safety education in particular. I have taught gun safety classes to youth and their parents that includes information on what to do if a friend brings a gun to school. We talk about who to go to and the dangers of handing a firearm without a trusted adult present. We review safety and teach both the parents and youth how a gun works. These classes help remove the mysticism of guns and have helped the students be better prepared and safer if they are presented with an unsecured firearm.

I have also advocated for public education for many years while serving as the President of the Kansas Parent Teacher Association and believe that knowledge and education are the greatest gifts we can give young people. While my children are grown and my grandchildren are not quite school aged, my daughter is an administrator at an area high school. I am still a passionate advocate for public school education and believe that this bill will help make schools a safer place by educating our young people and ensuring that education is standardized across the state.

Some have expressed concerns about teaching children about guns, but their concerns are misplaced. We teach children to Stop, Drop, and Roll, we partner with local law enforcement to present the DARE program, we talk about stranger danger, and so many other things to help keep them safe if they should find themselves in a bad situation. Offering educational curriculum on firearm safety is the same thing. It is giving youth a tool that they can use should they ever need it. While every child who goes through the program may not practice what they have learned, many others will, just as some kids end up using drugs despite taking DARE. Isn't it better to try to reach as many kids as possible instead of sitting back and doing nothing.

As an educator, I strongly encourage you to vote yes on HB2104 and help our children be equally equipped to keep themselves safe.

Thank you for your time.