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Written Testimony - Opponent  
House Bill 2304  
House Federal & State Affairs  
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Chairman Carpenter, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 2304, asserting the State Board of Education should create curriculum guidelines based on the NRA's Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program.

We are a nation grappling with daily gun violence. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control reports that guns are the leading cause of death among American children and teens. It has also been reported that there were 51 school shootings in 2022 that resulted in injuries or death. This is up from 35 in 2021, 10 in 2020, and 24 in 2019.

The burden of reducing gun violence should not be placed on the shoulders of our school children, and that's what House Bill 2304 does.

Kansas NEA believes guns do not belong in school buildings, even for the sake of gun safety training. Parents have access to gun safety training outside of schools, including hunter education through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 4-H Programs, and more.

Furthermore, this bill prioritizes a program established by the National Rifle Association, an organization riddled with unabashed greed, abuse, and malfeasance. Kansas NEA believes that in the case of gun safety training, the decision should be left up to the parents to participate in programs outside of the school day and the school building.

Lastly, Kansas NEA opposes this bill because it is not the job of the Kansas Legislature to dictate the curriculum standards the State Board of Education should be establishing.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to reject House Bill 2304.