

March 14, 10:30AM

**Kansas State Senate - Federal and State Affairs Committee Hearing
Testimony in opposition of SB 522**

Written-only Testimony

**Testimony of Amy Carter, 913.908.5700, carteam17@yahoo.com
Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**

Chairman Olson, Committee members, and staff,

Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Amy Carter. I was born in Kansas, raised in Kansas, went to school in Kansas and am raising my own family here in Kansas. Until Friday, March 4th, I had not been impacted by gun violence. Friday, March 4th, changed me, my husband, our children, our extended family and friends' lives forever. Because someone brought a "ghost" gun into my daughter's high school for unknown reasons and ended up shooting an administrator and school resource officer. If he had not been able to obtain the ghost gun, those two adults and the shooter would not have been shot that day. But that's a fight for another day.

I am testifying today because SB 522 could allow actual guns and ammunition to be brought into schools under the guise of a safety training course. Gun safety and safe storage is an important conversation to have with children; however, this program has NOT been proven to help keep our kids safe. Allowing children access to unsecured guns puts them at significant risk of unintentional shootings. And I can't imagine the trauma of the kids who had to sit in their classrooms during lockdown not knowing for some time whether the shooter was still lurking outside their classroom because they didn't have service to be able to see the news the rest of us were seeing. Can you imagine these same kids being exposed to the knowledge of more guns being brought into their school?? And this goes for any brother, sister, cousin, friend and others who even knew someone at Olathe East High School that day. We all lucked out that day, the outcome could have been so much worse. It pains me to even think what could have happened without the tip from the student, and the quick thinking of the administrator and school resource officer.

My experience leads me to emphasize that more guns do not make us safer. If they did we would be the safest country in the world. Rather than introducing a safety program that doesn't work into our schools, we should be addressing the root cause of why our children are dying by gun violence. The data shows that unintentional shootings involving our children are overwhelmingly due to easy access to unsecured firearms. We also know 5.4 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.

Please don't wait until gun violence impacts you and your family. I encourage members of the committee to oppose SB 522 and vote NO on this bill.

Thank you,

Amy Carter