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Written Testimony - Opponent  
Senate Bill 522  
Senate Federal and State Affairs  
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Chairman Olson, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 522.

Kansas NEA opposes this bill because it is not the job of the Kansas Legislature to micromanage the State Board of Education with mandates such as those contained in Senate Bill 522.

Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution clearly establishes that the “state board of education shall have general supervision of public schools, educational institutions, and all the educational interests of the state.” It is the job of the State Board of Education to determine appropriate curriculum standards for schools across the state.

The State Board of Education is comprised of ten duly elected individuals. The people of Kansas vote for a representative of their district to make decisions and implement policies pertaining to their schools without the interference of the Legislature.

Additionally, this bill only further codifies the mandate of teaching a program established by the National Rifle Association, an organization riddled with unabashed greed, abuse, and malfeasance. This, once again, eliminates the opportunity for any other program to be offered by a school district and, in turn, stifles the voices of parents in determining what is best for their students and their schools.

To be clear, Kansas NEA does not oppose firearm safety training. There is nothing in current law that prohibits the State Board of Education from establishing standards aligning with such requirement. There also has never been anything prohibiting schools from adopting such programs.

We believe that these decisions are best left to the State Board of Education and the local school boards. They are comprised of the duly elected local leaders who have far greater responsibility to work closely with parents and educators to determine and implement what best meets the needs of their local communities.