

Monday, March 11, 2019

Dear Senate Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Amanda Gardner, I am the mother of two amazing little boys, Kegan (10) and Korbin (7). My boys were raised in a household with guns and were told from the very start not to touch or handle guns unless they were with their father or myself. I never realized what huge gaps in their foundation we missed until we walked into the Cabelas in Tualatin last year.

In the early summer of 2018 my two children, then ages 6 and 9 attended a Kid S.A.F.E Foundation 'Kids Firearm Safety 1' class. The knowledge and excitement my children gained from that class is immeasurable, they left being excited to not just tell me what they learned, but to share their newfound knowledge with others.

Kid S.A.F.E. Foundation has helped my children know what the 4 basic safety rules were; both when no adult is around – but also what the 4 basic rules are of when you are handling a firearm. Creating rules that are basic and easy to remember has helped them to easily retain and share that knowledge with others. We discuss the importance of practicing rules, the proper handling of firearms when that time comes, as well as the proper storage of firearms in our home and hopefully the homes of others.

Most of all, this class provided a more clear and open dialog within our family to discuss gun safety – both in our presence and when we are not around. The class provided by Kid S.A.F.E. provides the basic knowledge and clear understanding that hits home with these children, given them the tools they need to think about and practice what should and should not be done around firearms.

The Kid S.A.F.E. Foundation is opening the minds of children and adults around this state at no cost to families to help spread awareness and education to keep our children safe. I think it is in the best interest of all families to have every child in the State of Oregon to go through this class, to reduce and hopefully someday stop all firearm accidents involving children. Let's give these children a leg up in developing safe practices and help them be responsible for their behavior around firearms, while starting an open line of communication regarding safety procedures.

Thank you for your time and support in bringing education and safety to our children.



Amanda Gardner
Mother of 2 Children
Eagle Creek, Oregon