

I stand in strong support of this proposed bill as I have firsthand been able to learn the misinformation behind firearms and the lack of Safety reinforcement at many levels. I have three children, and I wish that this existed years ago. A bill like this would ensure that children understand the risks about firearms as well as what to do if ever encounter one. This program would be paramount in ensuring that kids at a reasonable age know that firearms are tools, they are not toys and that there are Safety precautions that could save their lives and their loved ones. We live in a society where these tools are blamed for the actions of criminals instead of instituting safety and preventative measures at a young age so that as the youth grows up after being exposed to Safety programs they grow up with respect rather than curiosity. I too was very concerned years ago when by way of my wife who has a BA in Criminal Justice and our circle of Law Enforcement friends came to the reality that the Police does not exist to prevent crime, by their own admission, and that Law Enforcement would rather law abiding citizens be armed and understood gun safety and could defend themselves. As many of my Law Enforcement friends and family members have expressed that they're not able to get to us on time because they simply cannot. The reality that we were on our own then guided us to become self reliant and be prepared to defend ourselves and our children. But "what now, how do we teach our kids to not fear firearms but to respect them and understand that they're not TOYS, but a very serious object that is not to be played with?" Firearms need to be respected because if used improperly it could be dangerous to the point of hurting someone or worse. We had to employ open conversation with our young children and I believe that programs like the one proposed in SB 801 are very important and crucial in ensuring that firearms are viewed with the respect and seriousness deserved. We would be investing now in our future and I believe wholeheartedly that through education we can prevent accidents.

Thank you,

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