

Craig McDermott
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Dear Senate Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Craig McDermott, I'm the dad of four children, ranging in age from 10 years old to 31 years old. They've all grown up in a household with firearms and were all introduced to firearms at a very young age, the oldest, my son and I shot .22 long rifle in our backyard when he was just the tender age of 5. I personally educated them on gun safety, how to properly handle a firearm, firearm safety, proper use and storage of a firearm and most importantly, what to do when you encounter a firearm that's unattended. They all understood these concepts and even as first graders could grasp and articulate them. The older children have grown up to be responsible adults.

This legislation would bring some of that basic firearms safety to our classrooms, to our children. Not all children grow up in homes where there are firearms, many may not, but many may be exposed to them outside their own home. What this Kid S.A.F.E. Foundation 'Kids Firearm Safety 1' program accomplishes is the basic safe handling of firearms. It equips children with the 4 basic safety rules of firearms handling as well as what to do when encountering a firearm and an adult is not right there. Personally, I see this as invaluable. As children may be exposed to firearms when visiting family and friends. Isn't it wiser to provide them with a basic tool set of what to do, then leave it to their individual curiosity?

We teach our children at a young age that alcohol and drugs are not good for them. We teach them at a young age what to do when approached by a stranger, and a little later in their school learning we teach them about safe sex... Why not teach them another skill set that would positively impact their life?

I strongly urge you to provide your support for this important legislation, by voting YES. Let our children have the necessary tools to be safe. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Craig McDermott