
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

State of Washington **63rd Legislature** **2013 Regular Session**

By Senators Chase, McAuliffe, Nelson, Kohl-Welles, Conway, and Parlette

Read first time 02/07/13. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 TO THE HONORABLE RANDY DORN, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
2 THE DIRECTORS OF ALL LICENSED CHILD CARE, PRESCHOOL, AND EARLY LEARNING
3 PROGRAMS, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT IN
4 WASHINGTON STATE:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The loss of a child as the result of a firearms accident
9 is a tragic event made worse because it is often preventable; and

10 WHEREAS, Federal officials estimate that our nation has
11 approximately two hundred million or more firearms in private ownership
12 that are potential accidents waiting to happen in the hands of an
13 unsuspecting child; and

14 WHEREAS, Many children play with toy guns that closely resemble
15 real weapons and watch television programs and movies that routinely
16 portray the irresponsible and unsafe handling of guns, which are
17 factors that tend to blur the distinction between make-believe and
18 reality, and encourage unsafe behavior; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Rifle Association, education professionals,
20 urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists, and law

1 enforcement working together have developed the Eddie Eagle GunSafe
2 Program designed for children in prekindergarten through third grade;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program intends to ensure that
5 children stay safe should they encounter a gun and never mentions the
6 National Rifle Association or encourages children to buy guns or become
7 Association members; and

8 WHEREAS, Since the program began in 1988, the GunSafe Program has
9 reached more than twenty-one million children, in all fifty states; and

10 WHEREAS, Participating children receive certificates of merit and
11 stickers and posters of Eddie Eagle, the program's lovable feathered
12 mascot, in addition to important safety training that could save a
13 life; and

14 WHEREAS, Available free or at nominal cost, this program is gaining
15 popularity in many of our state's school districts and police
16 departments; and

17 WHEREAS, Teaching children to act safely around firearms is a
18 critical educational step in the effort to reduce the number of
19 firearms accidents among children;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that licensed
21 child care, preschool, and early learning programs, and the school
22 districts of the State of Washington promote the use of the Eddie Eagle
23 GunSafe Program in our licensed child care, preschool, and early
24 learning programs, and schools to help prevent firearms accidents among
25 children.

26 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
27 transmitted to the Honorable Randy Dorn, the Superintendent of Public
28 Instruction, the directors of all licensed child care, preschool, and
29 early learning programs, and the Superintendent of each public school
30 district in Washington State.

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