
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8009

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Rasmussen, Roach, Hochstatter, Hargrove, Stevens, Wood, Long, Loveland, Winsley and Kohl

Read first time 02/07/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 TO THE HONORABLE TERRY BERGESON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC
2 INSTRUCTION, AND TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
3 IN WASHINGTON STATE:

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Currently, our nation has approximately sixty to seventy
11 million gun owners and an estimated two hundred million or more
12 firearms in private ownership that are potential accidents waiting to
13 happen in the hands of an unsuspecting child; and

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

19 WHEREAS, Fortunately, the National Rifle Association, education
20 professionals, urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists,
21 and firearms safety experts working together have developed a gun

1 safety program designed for children in prekindergarten through sixth
2 grade; and

3 WHEREAS, The Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program teaches the
4 fundamentals of firearms safety to children in an effective and
5 enjoyable way, emphasizing the correct safety procedure through
6 numerous activities and materials that include workbooks, games, a
7 video, class discussion, and role-playing scenarios; and

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

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

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

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the school
19 districts of the State of Washington promote the use of the National
20 Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program in our schools to
21 help prevent firearms accidents among children.

22 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
23 transmitted to the Honorable Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public
24 Instruction, and to the Superintendent of each public school district
25 in Washington State.

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