



**To:**           **Honorable Members of the Kansas Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus**  
State Capitol  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Topeka, KS 66612

**Re:**           **HB 2089: An act concerning education; relating to firearms; standardizing  
firearm safety education training programs in school districts; establishing  
the Roy'Alle act.**

**Position:**    **Support**

**Date:**        **May 3, 2021**

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Honorable Members of the Kansas Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF), I ask that you support House Bill 2089 and vote “yes” on the veto override. By directing the Kansas State Board of Education to develop a firearm safety curriculum that would be available to public school districts, HB 2089 allows educators to introduce students to responsible firearm handling in a safe and controlled classroom setting.

Since 1989, CSF has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing and shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the interests of America's hunters and anglers.

Firearms have long been closely related to Kansas’ sporting conservation heritage. First, firearms are often a key component needed to participate in many hunting, and nearly all recreational shooting, activities in which sportsmen and women engage. This relationship also benefits the American System of Conservation Funding through which excise taxes on firearms and

ammunition, along with other sources of revenue, provide the bulk of funding for all state fish and wildlife management agencies, including the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism (KDWPT). Given this association between firearms, conservation funding, and opportunities for sportsmen and women, we support opportunities to introduce students to the safe and responsible use of firearms in a classroom setting.

While participation in recreational shooting sports has increased, participation in hunting prior to the pandemic has been steadily declining. This is unfortunate for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the lack of knowledge transferred from one generation to the next. It is through this transfer that many adults were introduced to the safe and responsible use of firearms. Fortunately, by allowing local public school districts to incorporate firearm safety curriculums approved by the Kansas State Board of Education, including KDWPT's Hunter Education curriculum, in the classroom, we have the opportunity to potentially recruit the next generation of sportsmen and women while ensuring that they understand the importance of safe and responsible behaviors around firearms.

It is also important to point out that, in the case of KDWPT's Hunter Education curriculum, responsible firearm handling is but one of several important topics discussed. Among the other topics included in this curriculum are general hunter safety, the role of hunters in the conservation of Kansas' wildlife resources, wildlife management techniques, among others. Recognizing the depth and breadth of these topics, it is clear that this curriculum not only represents a chance to educate students on the responsible handling of firearms, but an opportunity to recruit the next generation of sportsmen and women, the original conservationists.

In conclusion, CSF asks the Caucus to support HB 2089 by voting yes on the veto override and work with the Board of Education to ensure that Kansas' students have the opportunity to be properly introduced to safe and responsible firearm handling in a highly controlled classroom setting. If you have questions or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Keene", written in a cursive style.

**Kent Keene**

Senior Coordinator, Lower Midwestern States and Agriculture Policy

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

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