

From: [Lyn B.](#)
To: [SED Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB801
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:06:09 PM

Senate Education Committee
Senator Rob Wagner, Chair

Dear Senator Wagner and all Senate Education Committee members:

I am submitting this email to be on record regarding SB801 since I cannot attend the meeting on March 27, 2019. I write to you this evening to urge you to vote YES on SB801.

With everyone clamoring for more firearm restrictions how can anyone possibly be opposed to teaching firearm safety to our children at an early age? Oh yes, the League of Women Voters is opposed which is not a surprise but I dare say that the statistics that they are using are outdated and incorrect.

The LWV letter cites a Rutgers study from 2018 that concluded that children do not retain what they learn from firearm safety instruction. I looked at the conclusion and description of the study and I have some questions. How many children were studied? Were they rural or city children? Did their parents re-inforce what they learned? How was the study actually quantified? What percentage of the children did not retain and why? A quote from the study says "Most of the studies evaluated knowledge-based learning in which children sit in a classroom and are shown videos or handed papers with activities or information to teach them rules to follow if they should come across a gun".

Would you remember something if you had never actually handled a firearm, looked at it, learned what the firearm does and how it works? I have my doubts.

So at a minimum the study cited in the LWV letter submitted is flawed.

Today society ends up blaming tools for the actions of criminals instead of blaming the criminal themselves. If a drunk driver hits a pedestrian is it the cars fault or the drivers? If someone stabs another person is it the knives fault or the perpetrator?

Is it not better to have a tool in place in school for the children to learn and ask questions than to just throw up our hands and declare it is not going to be effective anyway so why bother? Yes parents have the ultimate responsibility to keep their children safe but it cannot hurt to have alternatives in place for educating our children.

Derek LeBlanc is doing an amazing job educating young people in his Firearm Safety Course for Kids. I pray that you will take advantage of this opportunity to show that you are willing to allow this educational tool to be used to give children the basic understanding of safety issues relating to firearms as a foundation for making better choices when it comes to handling firearms.

Thank you.

Lyn Boniface
Gold Beach, Oregon