



WOMEN'S STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 43 (sub 1) – FIREARM SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Whereas, It is estimated that between 2005-2012 there were an average of 110 unintentional firearm deaths to children 0–14 annually in the U.S. during this time period. The typical shooter in other-inflicted shootings is a brother or friend. Children aged 11–14 are often shot in the home of friends. The large majority of children are shot by other children or by themselves;¹

Whereas, SB 43 would create a pilot program to provide instruction to certain public school students on firearms safety and violence prevention;

Whereas, The instruction is “opt-in” only and instruction may be delivered in a public school, with parent permission only, or at home using a video or online materials;

Whereas, The bill focuses on teaching a student to avoid injury when the student finds a firearm by teaching students to:

- (A) not touch the firearm;
- (B) tell an adult about finding the firearm and the location of the firearm; and
- (C) share the information with any other minors who are with the student when the student finds the firearm;

Whereas, The instruction shall be neutral of political statements on guns:

Resolved, That the Women's State Legislative Council of Utah urges the Utah State Legislature to support this bill as a pilot program to support firearms safety training for Utah students.

Dated this 2nd day of March 2016

Shauna Scott-Bellacccomo, President
Women's State Legislative Council of Utah

Erin Preston, Director
Education Legislative Study Committee

¹ Children and unintentional firearm death (Hemenway and Solnick - <http://www.marshallproject.org/2014/03/20/children-and-unintentional-firearm-death>)