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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Chase, McAuliffe, and Nelson

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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