

Please find **UNFAVORABLE** HB0223

Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention – Resources, Tools, and Educational Materials

HB0223 dramatically expands the authority of a state entity to create educational materials, issue guidance, and partner with third-party organizations on matters involving firearms—without any meaningful safeguards to ensure neutrality, accountability, or respect for constitutionally protected rights.

This bill enables the State to use taxpayer funds to shape public perception of lawful firearm ownership through one-sided messaging, while promoting policies such as Extreme Risk Protective Orders without addressing due process concerns or the rights of firearm owners.

The bill's language allowing the Center to address “any other topics it deems appropriate and necessary” invites mission creep and future abuse. Experience in states like California and New York shows that similar programs often devolve into taxpayer-funded advocacy platforms that produce no honest, measurable public safety benefit while institutionalizing anti-gun ideology.

Of particular concern is the bill's authorization to collaborate with unspecified third-party organizations. Without guardrails, this creates a pipeline for public funds to flow to politically connected advocacy groups under the guise of education—undermining public trust and democratic accountability.

Public safety does not require government-funded narrative control over a constitutional right. Education should be neutral, evidence-based, and respectful of lawful firearm ownership—not a vehicle for indirect gun control or ideological spending.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue an **unfavorable report on House Bill 0223**.

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