

I'm writing today as a mother of three young children. One thing I know for sure is that safe storage will make them safer at every stage in their lives. That's why I'm asking that you support HB 2510 requiring gun owners to safely store their firearms.

Every time my children have a playdate at a friend's house, one of the most important questions I ask is how firearms are stored in the home. We know that, despite our best efforts to teach kids about gun safety, their childlike curiosity can get the better of them. When adults store their firearms, locked, unloaded and with ammunition stored separately, we can avoid the tragic events of unintentional shootings.

As I look forward a few years to when my children enter their teens, I think about how suicide is the second leading cause of death for teens according to the CDC. One of the factors that increases the risk of suicide is access to a firearm. Teens can be impulsive and lack the coping skills to seek mental health intervention when in crisis. Access to a firearm can lead to a rash decision that cannot be undone.

Finally, I look to when my kids will be adults. The gun violence epidemic is so rampant in this country, we need all possible mitigation strategies in place. Lost and stolen firearms can result in guns getting into the wrong hands. We are all safer when gun owners keep their weapons secured.

It is always an adult's responsibility to make sure that unauthorized access to firearms is prohibited and that's why I'm asking that you support HB 2510.

Thank you,  
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