

Submitter: Sylvia Banks
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB551

Dear members of the Education Committee,

I urge you to vote YES on SB551.

I believe that we need to take every opportunity to educate the public, especially parents of school children, about the need to secure firearms - unloaded and locked with ammunition stored separately - to keep them out of the hands of children. My 10-year-old grandson shot and killed himself with a loaded gun that was stored in the top of his parent's closet, placed there to protect his family from a possible intruder. Instead, the real danger to my grandchildren came from the loaded gun itself. I am absolutely certain that if my grandson didn't have access to a loaded gun, he would be here today.

The crisis of gun violence has only gotten worse since my grandson died in 2016. Gun deaths are now the leading cause of deaths in children and teens. Along with stronger, sensible gun laws, education is a key component to reducing deaths and injuries.

Thank you,
Sylvia Banks