

Submitter: S Bakken  
On Behalf Of:  
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Measure: HB2006

I was a high school nurse when Columbine happened. I remember how scared I was to be in an environment where a young high school student could resort to such a heinous act. Dealing with high school students for 10 years I can attest to their inability to carefully weigh the consequences of their actions or inactions especially in the face of extreme emotional angst. There are a multitude of studies showing that a young adult's brain is not fully developed until sometime in their mid to late twenties with the prefrontal cortex being one of the last parts to mature. That is an area of the brain that is important in calibration of risk and reward, problem solving, prioritizing, thinking ahead, self-evaluation, long term planning and regulation of emotion. There is a reason rental car companies have it right when they prohibit renting cars to anyone younger than 25. Gun legislation could take a page from their book and prohibit anyone younger than 21 from owning a gun.

As a former school employee I am so disheartened by the lack of consideration given to the safety of our children and the people we ask to protect, support and teach them. No one is asking for guns to be taken away from anyone, but common sense tells us that we can do more to make sure gun ownership is regulated in a way that protects us all instead of putting us at increased risk for gun violence in our communities.

The United States should be a positive example to the the world instead we rank with third world countries in the area of gun violence. HB 2006 would be a step forward in turning that around.