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On Behalf Of:

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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

His strong shoulders and arms were visible and I could imagine he'd spent time playing and working outside. He was young; younger than I was at the time. I was introduced to him and I found myself flooded as I took in this young person, from head to toe, lying there in the hospital.

This is not my story, so I won't share more. What is my story to share, is that in that moment, my brain and heart both broke wide open as I witnessed what resulted from the access to a loaded, unsecured gun, in the heat of emotional impulse. It was a permanent "solution" to a temporary problem.

And he'd lived through it.  
Technically.

Another decade, location, and I was in a different role in my life. My partner, two friends and a holdup at gunpoint. Again, a young person holding the gun. We made it through without physical injury. I don't know what happened to the young person who had held us up, but the statistics are dismal.

Two decades later, someone I'd onced loved deeply has ended their life with a loaded gun, quickly accessible, on an impulse, in a time of crisis. They left behind blindsided friends, a spouse and their young child. This is not someone who would have jumped into that abyss if they'd had support in that moment or even 24 hours before gaining access to that gun.

Please consider these three experiences as mere droplets in a vast ocean of similar examples. Lived experiences that have far reaching pain and suffering beyond the moment.

Gun ownership is protected in our country, and we have rich examples of community and cultural connections within it. Please help us bring common sense solutions into action that will support all Americans.

Thank you.