

Submitter: Ashley Brown

On Behalf Of:

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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

My name is Ashley Brown and I am a sophomore at Lakeridge High School. When I was little, I could not go a night without worrying about being shot in my back, and I could not go a day without worrying about my safety in school. Whenever I heard of mass shootings in big cities or school shootings my anxiety progressively got worse and worse with each story coming out on the news. That is not something a little girl should be worried about. There is something else important to note about these shootings: there have seemed to be more and more news headlines about shootings as I have gotten older. I should have been able to brush off silly fears like being shot in the back as I grew up, but instead, it seems that shootings have become too normal to shake these worries. I do not know what little me would say if I told her the state of the world right now, how many kids are just like her, scared to go to school each day, how many kids are just like her, who build a wall of stuffed animals behind their back just to be able to close their eyes at night. I feel a great sense of disappointment in this issue getting worse and not better, but an even bigger feeling of heartbreak for the little kids growing up in this world. I believe we must take every step to make this issue better for the kids growing up in a world that is progressively getting more dangerous. Implementing a better permit to purchase gives me hope for those little kids. I would sleep much better at night knowing that less people undeserving of having firearms and insecure background checks are roaming with a gun available. For me, it was never guns that was the issue, it was the question of what would happen if a gun fell into the wrong hands. Sitting in my room at night, I always imagined the face of the person who would shoot me, I would always imagine who they were, not the weapon they were holding. Too many people have undeserved access to firearms. This is stealing childhoods, and it is taking countless lives. As a girl who has lived with firearms being in the wrong hands as my worst fear since I could remember, I believe that every small change that is made around this issue is unmeasurably significant. This change would have changed my entire quality of life as a little girl and now, and if it can do the same for others, I believe there is no question that it is not only important, but absolutely necessary.