

This is a picture of my stunningly beautiful great-niece, Tori Eden. She had just turned 21 in this picture. She was finishing her second year at Virginia Tech University as one of the top students in her pre-med classes, had just finished a fabulous pre-med internship, was a Violence Prevention Intern at the school's Women's Center, an undergrad Research Assistant, the president of inVentT's, a group of students interested in exploring their ability to envision, create and transform their ideas into action, and she mentored STEM student in K-12.

She struggled with an eating disorder and never feeling like she measured up to the expectations around her. Yet she exceeded them.

In early Feb. 2019, she went into a gun store, purchased a gun, and ammunition. The assumption is she said she was being stalked and needed protection. She went out to dinner with her boyfriend to celebrate Valentines Day, went back to her dorm room & with her roommate away for the weekend, she attempted to kill herself. Only the ammunition didn't work in the gun she purchased. The next day, she returned to the gun store and purchased the correct ammunition.

Later that same day, ~ 30 hrs. from purchasing the gun, she shot herself in the head.

Young people, especially, who have the world in front of them, quite often live in the very small world of their surroundings and their head. They can't see the bigness around and ahead of them. Would 72 hours of waiting for her to get that gun made a difference? We don't know, but she would be back in classes by then and maybe too busy to get back to that store. Enough time that at least there might have been someone who could have intervened. Someone could have said something that made a difference. That she would have a glimmer and hope of all that was her potential.

This could be your child, grandchild, niece, nephew. This Bill in NO WAY infringes on the right to purchase a gun. The self-centeredness of the people who fight these bills is beyond reason to me. Are people that impatient??? Yes, she was 21, and even with this bill, she would have been able to get that gun for that reason, but the 15 and 17 and 19 and even 21-year-olds that I have encountered in my 34 years of working in education have shown me that when self-doubt, peer pressure, family pressure, academic pressure, when these things converge, even the best students are thrown into crisis.

I beg you on behalf of my family and every other single family who has had to deal with this tragedy, please support the logic and reason behind the necessity of this bill. Thank you.

