

Submitter:

Anna Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

Hello, my name is Anna Johnson and I urge you to pass SB243 to make kids safer in school and prevent school shootings.

I grew up in rural Washington County in the 90's and was exposed to guns from a young age, as my family was involved in hunting and trap shooting. My late grandfather taught me to shoot and made sure I knew about gun safety and responsible gun ownership. I remember learning about Columbine for the first time when I was in school, and how for a very long time that terrible tragedy felt like an outlier. I can't imagine what it would be like to be a student now, trying to focus on my future while the lives of so many of my peers have been cut short by more and more school based mass shootings. These horror stories have become the norm rather than the outlier.

And it's not only happening in schools—increasingly it feels like nowhere is safe. Every time I go to the grocery store, movie theatre, concert, or any public place I think about the possibility of death by gun violence. We should not have to live with that fear over our heads when there are practical things we can do to prevent these tragedies and make us safer. That is not the ethos my family taught me, and is not the mentality I carry as a responsible gun owner today. Please pass SB243 today. Thank you.