

Submitter:	Sylvia Banks
On Behalf Of:	Moms Demand Action
Committee:	Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB243

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the committee. My name is Sylvia Banks, I'm a constituent from Albany and I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action.

I became a passionate advocate for gun violence prevention following the death of my dear, sweet grandson, Micheal. Micheal died by suicide nearly 9 years ago at the age of 10, and the lives of all who loved him have been forever altered.

Micheal was a bright, caring, compassionate kid. He was an excellent student and loved sports, especially baseball and basketball, and was really good at them. Nothing would ever lead anyone to believe he was a suicide risk, but he took his own life with a gun that was stored in the top of his parents closet, loaded and ready to protect his family in case of an intruder. The real danger to the family came from that loaded gun, not from some unknown potential intruder.

Nothing can bring our sweet Micheal back, but I can lift my voice in the effort to prevent unnecessary deaths from happening in the future.

I am writing today to ask you to support SB 243 - The section banning bump stocks and Glock Switches is particularly important to me. Gun manufacturers have exploited gaps in the law to sell devices like bump stocks and other devices that allow semi-automatic firearms to fire much faster or even achieve fully automatic rates of fire.

A bump stock was used in the deadliest mass shooting in US history, the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas. My sister-in-law, Diane was one of the hundreds of people who were injured by bullets raining down on the crowd. A bullet bounced off a brick wall and grazed her skull. I am so thankful that she wasn't more seriously injured, but the injury she sustained was not just physical. She carries the scars of the trauma with her every day. This bill would ban the sale and possession of rapid fire devices like the bump stocks that were used that fateful day in Las Vegas.

I also support the other life-saving sections in this bill.

Please vote in favor of SB 243.