

To Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

Because of so many unintentional deaths and injuries to children we have child proof caps on prescription and over the counter medicines. Child proof caps are on many other household items that could injure children due to choking hazards or because of the products toxicity. I am sorry I don't have any stats to cite, but I am sure these child proof caps are not 100 percent effective in all cases.

I have owned guns for all of my adult life as have many of my family. The guns are locked up in cabinet, unloaded and with the ammunition stored separately too. That is the way I was taught to store guns and that is the way I taught my son too.

When a new gun is purchased, it comes with a trigger lock or some locking mechanism. This lock is already included in the cost of the gun, so this is no undue financial burden on the buyer. The gun manufacturers sell guns with a locking mechanism for a reason that should not be ignored.

Children in the USA between the ages of 5 to 14 are 11 times more likely to be killed unintentionally with a gun than similarly aged children in other developed countries. (1) This statistic in itself should point out how reckless many gun owners are. Kids are naturally curious. Kids see many video's and images of people point guns at other people, so they mimic that behavior. When the child as actually picked up a real gun and mimicked this behavior, the consequences are often tragic. Younger teenagers lack maturity, judgment and are often impulsive. From December 2012 to December 2013 at least 100 children age 14 and under where killed in unintentional shootings. (2) Children aged 12 to 14 are at the highest risk of being shot by a peer.

Toddlers age 2 to 4 are at the highest risk of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Do you why toddlers suffer the high rates of self-inflicted gunshot wounds? A toddler's index (or trigger finger) is generally not strong enough to pull the trigger, or their hand is too small to grip a gun the way an adult would to fire it. The toddler turns the handgun around with the barrel pointed towards them that allows them to put the butt of the pistol in their lap and use their thumb which has enough strength to push the trigger thus firing the gun directly at them. I learned this in a gun safety training course that I took with my son a few years ago. The gun safety course was a refresher for both of us.

When our children are in the process of becoming licensed drivers, they are restricted to who can ride in the car with them while they are gaining experience driving. Studies have shown that this reduces traffic accidents and fatalities with new teenage drivers.

Taking reasonable steps to secure guns and ammunition is the responsibility of all gun owners. However, there are far too many irresponsible gun owners who face no consequences when they fail at this very basic function.

There are biometric (fingerprint activated) lock boxes available to hold a handgun for little as \$149.99.

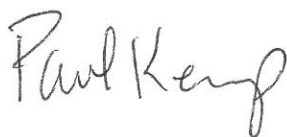
<http://www.dickssportinggoods.com/product/index.jsp?productId=17485546&cp=4406646.4413993.4414427.4414433&fg=Price>

Trigger locks are available for as little as \$10. These will work on a handgun or a rifle.

[http://www.dickssportinggoods.com/product/index.jsp?productId=31570686&clickid=Mktcamp\\_cs&vskw=PARENT-31570686](http://www.dickssportinggoods.com/product/index.jsp?productId=31570686&clickid=Mktcamp_cs&vskw=PARENT-31570686)

What is a child's or teenager's life worth?

Respectfully,



Paul Kemp

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- (1) Richardson EG, Hemenway D. Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional firearm fatality: Comparing the United States with Other HighIncome Countries, 2003, p. 13, table 2, J Trauma, 2011 Jan;70(1):23843. doi 10.1097/TA.0b013e3181dbaddf.
  - (2) <http://everytown.org/documents/2014/10/innocents-lost.pdf>