

**From:** [Kim Varner](#)  
**To:** [SJUD Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** My safety matters  
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To whom this may concern,

I am a mother of two children. I am a widow. I have two step children as well, both are grown up now and are happy functional adults. I live in Deschutes County and I have my concealed weapons permit. I am telling you all this so you can begin to understand who I am and what is important to me.

My gun rights mean so much to me that it is difficult for me to really put into words. I have owned guns my entire adult life and I was raised around them as a child. I do not believe in play guns (ex: nerf or pop guns). I do not allow my children to play video games or pretend play (ex: cops and robbers) where you shoot other people. My children have always been taught gun safety and that guns are not a toy!

Here is a little back story. My step son Colton had an older brother. When Colton was 7, his older brother was given the family pistol by his grandfather and mother. On Super Bowl Sunday that year, two teenagers decided to play a game with the family gun. Sadly Colton's brother was fatally shot in the back of the head with the family gun. When I married Colton's dad, the family was in the middle of that crisis. It was absolutely heartbreaking and has forever changed my life and beliefs on guns.

My beliefs on gun rights is as follows; We have the right to own guns by my second amendment rights but if you are a criminal or deemed to be dangerous then I should not have access to a gun. I personally am not a criminal and I am a legal gun owner. I have all my guns safely stored where my children can not access them. My children are only allowed to handle guns in safe environments when they have instructors with them. My children are going to take hunter's safety and will learn how to provide food for their family.

When my son was little, I took him hunting with me. I bow hunted and rifle hunted. I tried duck hunting but decided quickly it was not for me. On my walls are the trophies of our legal kills. Those deer, fed my family and we are grateful for the opportunity to provide that food, when we would have otherwise starved.

Sad true story; My neighborhood is not exactly the safest. One day a guy beat two people up with a baseball bat. He hid in my back yard and I called the cops to remove him. They asked why he didn't break into my house and he said, I quote, " Do you see those horns on the walls? That means that lady can shoot. If I go and break into her house, I would be dead."

That sums up how I feel about my gun rights! My guns have provided food for my family. My guns have helped my children also learn the gun safety rules and taught them how to provide for their families one day. My guns are safely stored. My children do not have any careless access to them. I have my concealed carry permit because I would rather feel as though I could protect myself and others from the evil monsters who also live in this world. I Will Not Be A Victim Who Doesn't Fight Back! My gun rights give me that insurance that if I choose to carry legally, than I am a bit safer in this ever changing world.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Varner

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P.S.

Criminals will always find ways to get guns. Taking guns from legal citizens only creates opportunities for them to be victims. Criminals don't follow laws.

Sent from my iPhone