

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I'm writing to you today to ask that you support Senate Bill 801. This bill addresses our precious children and gun safety.

I grew up in a home with firearms. I was taught at a very young age that firearms are tools and not toys. We were taught that you don't touch nor do you show them to your friends. This carried over into how I raised my son.

We raised our son with the same rules, but also added that if he were ever at a friends house and his friend wanted to show him his gun, or his dads gun that he was to run from the house immediately.

I stumbled upon Kids SAFE Foundation last summer because of some work I do with kids. I was very interested in this class, and what they were doing. I wound up sitting through a Kids SAFE class and was so excited to see and hear what they were teaching. They take the same approach that we used while raising our son. I watched as the kids sat and listened and learned what not to do when presented with an unsecured firearm. I watched kids who were obviously shy, open up and ask questions about firearms that had they not been in that class they may never have had the courage to ask.

I wound up taking my 3 year old grandson to a class, yes he is still a little young, but I want him safe. At 3 years old I half expected to leave half way through the class, but he sat there and listened. He was excited to learn and he actually retained some information. We still talk about those 4 rules quite often to this day.

One of the biggest reasons I truly feel this Bill is so important is, kids these days are exposed to many different households. Some with guns, others who don't want guns in their homes.

Kids have friends who may have a firearm in the home that the parents think they know nothing about. It's this very scenario that I worry about most. I don't want to read about another child being shot by their brother or friend. I want all kids to have the education and ability to have the confidence, if faced with an unsecured firearm, to take charge and make the best choices to save lives. We won't ever hear about how many lives are saved, and I'm ok with that, as long as we don't have to read anymore terrible stories of kids shooting kids.

Sincerely,
Vicki Tindall