Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am writing this to voice my support for Senate Bill 801. This bill is really only about one thing - education our children about guns.

Some will argue that these children are too young. I agree that some may be too young. But many will understand and retain that knowledge. They will take it home and talk to their parents about it. They will talk to their classmates about it. They will tell their siblings about what they learned. Is that bad?

Some will argue that its the parents responsibility. How is that working our for our society right now? We all know that we are dealing with lots of single parent homes. Lots of homes where both parents are working. Many children being at home by themselves after school. Can we legislate that parents are required to educate their children on the dangers of guns? Simply we can not.

Some will argue that we should be legislating for stricter controls on the safe keeping of guns in the home. Hard to argue with that but who is going to enforce that law? When will we know that it was not being done? Sadly, when there is a tragedy with a gun.

It is easy for people to find reasons for not wanting a discussion about guns in our schools. This is about preparing our children for a possible disaster. No different than active shooter drills. Or fire drills. Or earthquake drills. Or the dangers of drugs. We expect that training to work on 6 year olds. Why not some training about what to do if you encounter a gun in your home or one of your classmates homes?

If we save one life with this training, it will be worth it. As the champion for this bill has said many times "Zero gun accidents is the only acceptable goal"

Please support this bill. It is another building block to a common sense approach to guns in our society.

Rick Wallace