

I am a 51 year-old woman and business owner. I have been a victim of a violent crime but I won't be again. That is because I carry a firearm and I know how to use it. I carry it while hiking in the backwoods and traveling Hwy 126 at night. I carry it while grocery shopping and at church and while watching my daughter's high school games. I can quickly protect myself at home if necessary because, a deputy is "an hour away." The people around me are safer because I am armed.

My father was a police officer. When I was a child we had a loaded pistol in nearly every room of the house and in every vehicle. Neither myself nor my siblings ever touched those guns because we were taught gun safety and awareness from the time we could walk. Before I adopted my daughter, I was her foster Mother. I made sure that she learned gun safety and awareness. At 15, she is now an avid hunter and is very respectful of guns.

If someone is breaking into my home in the middle of the night, there is no way I'll have time to assemble my weapon. What if I'm not home? Under SB978 my daughter will not have access to a firearm for her own protection.

Suicide is traumatic and heartbreaking and I wish there were better avenues to address it the mental health aspect. Stripping away my constitutional rights and turning me into a criminal is not the answer.

Please vote NO on SB978.

Sincerely,  
Lori Edwards-Olson