

When I was young my Dad trained me how to use a fire arm for my protection. I began shooting at the age of 10 at a shooting range and he trained me first and foremost in safety. As an attorney, he saw many awful crimes, especially toward young women. He trained me how to defend myself in our home with a shotgun because it was the safest means of defending yourself without risk of a stray bullet flying through walls. At the age of 17, I did exactly as I was trained and I scared off the intruder with our shotgun. I will NEVER forget the shift in the way I felt from *fear and helplessness to empowerment to protect myself* as I picked up the shotgun. It was a life changing moment for me.

This bill would limit responsible youth from defending themselves. We forget the countless unreported times, such as mine, where people of all ages were able to defend themselves from those intending to harm them through the use of a firearm. I urge you to hold our police and sheriff's accountable for enforcing our current gun laws. Do not create more laws restricting guns. You will be taking chipping away at the rights of all to protect and defend themselves.

Thank you for listening.

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