

Hello. My name is Sharri Anderson and I am a mother of two daughters attending college, and the daughter and granddaughter of hunters who fed their families through hunting deer and small game. I grew up with guns in my house, and on one occasion my dad thought I was an intruder in the middle of the night and almost shot me when I was twelve. I've also intersected with a lot of other people who have similar stories; one getting the parents' guns out of the closet at a friend's house when they were children to play with them, and one heartbreaking story from a friend whose 10-year-old grandson, who seemed to be having a great day, took the loaded gun from his parents' closet and intentionally killed himself. Making sure your firearms are secure and locked away, with ammunition locked away separately, can save lives, and passing HB2510 will absolutely save lives. Every year, around 350 children under the age of 18 gain access to firearms and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. This measure will protect young, curious children from unintentionally harming themselves or someone else, and it will also protect older children who are depressed and suicidal from harming themselves, whose numbers are at a steep increase because of the stresses of the pandemic. There's no coming back from a suicide attempt with a gun; it usually works. Keeping guns locked up and safe just makes sense.