

As a mother of 2 young children, I support this bill 100%. About 5 years ago, my daughter went to her best friend's house next door, and was shown a rifle by her friend. Her friend was a nice girl, who was not supposed to be able to get a hold of that without an adult around. My daughter left immediately, as she was taught to do, and came home. We went to chat with the parents, a little freaked out about the situation. It luckily was only a BBGun, but it made me think about a subject I hadn't thought too much about previously. I also learned that if my child did get hurt or killed at a friend's house, by a loaded, unsecure weapon, that I could not hold the parents responsible for it. It would be put down as an "accidental death", which we know would not be an accident, and completely avoidable. Since then, I have asked about guns and storage in every home they visit.

I'm writing to urge this committee to support HB 2510, which would create a secure storage law that requires gun owners to store their firearms securely when a firearm is not on their person.

Common-sense policies like secure firearm storage work. One study found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children, compared to those that locked neither.

After a year of the pandemic exacerbating gun violence, gun violence prevention is more important than ever. With increased gun sales, increased calls to domestic violence hotlines, a spike in city gun violence, and far more unintentional shootings, it's clear that immediate action is needed.

Please vote yes on HB 2510.

Thank you for your time.