

As a commercial fisher in Alaska, a gun was an important tool. Shooting a 150 pound halibut before bringing it aboard our boat stopped it quickly from breaking things apart as it flopped its powerful tail.

As a clinical psychologist working with young people, veterans, and families, the first question I asked when I worried that someone might be suicidal is "Do they have access to firearms? Are you sure they cannot get

ahold of a gun?"

Guns are valuable tools, but they are lethal. Whether it is a domestic violence situation or someone thinking of taking their lives, immediate access to a gun eliminates the chance to have second thoughts. You are hearing all the statistics. Safe gun storage is essential.

i have sat with people traumatized by gun violence and seen their fear when in a situation where guns might be present. Having no safe public spaces where they can feel free of this fear is devastating. Balancing the rights of gun owners with the risks of overprotection of those rights is the task of this legislature. I beg of you to pass SB 554-A20.

Thank you for your service,

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