

Submitter:

Piper Everts

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Hello, my name is Piper Everts. I am writing today to show my support for HB 4145, as gun violence has been an issue on the table for many years. I am a senior in high school, though my concerns have been around for much longer. I initially started to stand up for my classmates and myself in issues such as gun violence in middle school, raising my voice at the country calling for common sense gun laws to protect everyone, but particularly youth in this country from acts of gun violence. During my freshman year in high school we received a number of bomb threats and an active shooter threat. The first couple of times we were released from school, but as they went on kids were forced to stay in class, police came through, not even bothering to knock before entering. To this day the sound of the announcement chime causes me to shoot my head up and look around in panic. Kids may not realize it in the moment, but the threat of these things in school can cause serious damage to people's mental health. It is very problematic when youth are exposed and it ultimately becomes normalized within a community. It creates a precedent that things such as schools being shot up are not something to bat an eye at. Recently a kid at my school joked about bringing a gun to school and shooting peers. He joked about it. Let that sink in. We are in a society where kids joke about shooting their friends. He was investigated and it was found that there was no threat. Many of my own friends didn't go to school in fear that he may actually do it. That shouldn't have to be a problem. I shouldn't have to write this today, urging you to make these changes, but here I am, asking you to please do it for me, a student who feels unsafe for herself and her peers in her school. Thank you.