

Testimony of Roma Amin, MD  
in Opposition to House Bill 178  
June 2019

My name is Roma Amin. I am a family physician who lives and works in Columbus, Ohio. As a family physician, I have the rare opportunity to care for entire families. I have the joy of delivering babies, the pleasure of watching them grow, the privilege of helping my patients navigate life's challenges, and when the time comes, I have the honor of helping families deal with death. I went into this specialty of medicine to take care of families, but every month, I am being faced with yet another family being torn apart by gun violence. These families span all socioeconomic statuses, education levels, and racial backgrounds, so for these families, my dear patients, I am in strong opposition to House Bill 178.

There was one week last October when I received three phone calls regarding gun violence that directly affected my patients.

The first call was from my patient's 27-year-old daughter who had been shot accidentally by her husband. The bullet had gone straight through her leg. It was a miracle that she had made it to the hospital alive. She spent 1 month in a hospital, 3 months in physical therapy, and 6 months at home before she could return to work. She will deal with chronic pain for the rest of her life. Her husband was a police officer who had a license and extensive safety training.

The second call was on Super Bowl Sunday. My patient's boyfriend was shot from a stray bullet while driving to a party. He had a licensed gun with him in the car, but it didn't save his life. My patient was 10 weeks pregnant at that time. She has now delivered a beautiful baby boy who will never know his father. She is now a struggling single mom trying desperately to make ends meet.

The third call was from my patient who had been grocery shopping in the middle of the day with her son and husband. I often go to this grocery store for my shopping. They were walking to their car when an unmarked van stopped, opened the door, shot her husband 11 times in the parking lot, and then drove away. My patient's PTSD is so severe that she can no longer care for her son. Her son is now under the custody of his grandmother, both of whom are my patients. Every time I see him, he cries and asks me where his mommy and daddy are.

These are good people and caring families who have been ripped apart by gun violence. No matter what I do as their physician, they will never be the same again. Our job as physicians and legislators is to protect and represent and speak for the communities that we serve. As a team, we promote seat belts and helmets and automobile insurance and fire alarms in homes as a measure of public safety and health. Yet this bill serves to expand gun access without monitoring of training, experience, mental health, etc. This will inevitably lead to increased gun related deaths and irreversible long term effects for even more children and families. And so, for my patients, their families, and our communities, I urge you to please oppose House Bill 178.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roma Amin