

Dena Lishing
Opponent SB 317

To the Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Dena Lishing. I oppose SB 317, because my 11 year old son was shot and killed in the house where he was staying, while he slept. He was shot by his older brother. If the gun had been locked up properly this could have been avoided.

My son's name is Caleb Lishing and he lived only a short life. His dreams died the day he did, and my dreams for him died also. He was a smart, caring, compassionate, loving young boy. His smile would brighten a room and his laughter would fill your heart. This does not just impact the person who died, it impacts the family of the child. It's been 2 years and for me, his mother, it's like it was yesterday.

Having more guns in schools just makes it more likely that some child will get hold of a gun and shoot themselves or another child, especially if the teachers are not thoroughly trained in how to handle a gun. There have already been a number of incidents where school staff have discharged their gun at school. There have also been incidents where teachers misplaced their gun and it was found by a student or the student grabbed a gun from a staff member.

No matter how well a teacher may think they know a student, they can never really know what is going on with that child at home or in their lives. Active kids can do something in the blink of an eye. If a troubled child follows an impulse and gets hold of a gun in their classroom, someone is likely to die. You can't watch every child all the time. It's dangerous enough for well-trained police officers to handle guns around children, why would we want untrained teachers trying to do that?

Vote NO on SB 317.

Sincerely
Dena Lishing