

Dena Lishing
Opponent SB 317

To the Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Dena Lishing. My 11 year old son, Caleb, was shot and killed at his father's parent's house, while he slept. He was shot by his older brother who got hold of an unsecured gun. If the gun had been locked up properly this could have been avoided.

Children's brains are not fully developed until their early twenties. They don't have adult reasoning skills. They don't understand that if you do "a" and "b" it's going to result in "c", that actions have consequences. I'm sure you've seen this with your own children or grandchildren when they throw a tantrum at the store, or when they say "I didn't think that would happen". To have guns in school means kids will, sooner or later, get access to them and this will be tragic. And it's even more likely to happen if teachers are not thoroughly trained in handling guns. There's already been many instances where a teacher or school police officer left a gun unsecured or lost control of it and it ended up in the hands of a child. There are countless ways to keep our children safe without our teachers having to act like border patrol. Teachers have a job to do and that is to teach, not be police.

My son was killed by an unsecured gun. It is something I live with every day. Time does not take that away. It's a hole in my heart that cannot be filled or replaced. It could be your family member it happens to. Everyone thinks "Oh no, not me". I thought the same thing. Now I'm a number along with Caleb and know the pain of loss every day. No family should have to go through this.

Vote NO on SB 317.

Sincerely
Dena Lishing