

Dena Lishing
Opponent SB 215

To the Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Dena Lishing. I live in Massillon, Ohio and I am a nurse. I oppose SB 215, 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 where his brother could not get it, 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 whole family of the child. It's been 2 years and for me, his mother, it's like it was yesterday.

Having people with criminal backgrounds or severe mental illness carrying guns around our towns just makes it more likely that a child will get hold of someone's gun and shoot themselves or another child. Or get "caught in the crossfire," as innocent bystanders on the streets or during domestic violence. The last thing we need is a bunch of people who shouldn't have guns in the first place, and who have never been taught how to shoot straight, carrying guns around our families.

Please don't make another mother go through what I have. I demand that you protect our children and Vote NO on SB 215.

Sincerely,
Dena Lishing