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Thank you, Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, for allowing me to introduce HB 175, the Keep. Every. Home. Safe. Act. HB 175, along with my Joint Sponsor- Representative Miranda. HB175 will create a requirement for the secure storage of firearms in addition to authorizing an income tax credit for the purchase of safety storage units. The tax credit will be equal to 20% of the purchase price of each firearms safety storage unit with a maximum credit of \$400.

Gun safety storage has been shown to reduce the risk of injury and death in children and adults. And yet, less than half of gun owners safely store their weapons. Even the NRA recommends safe storage. To be clear, this is not a bill meant to take away access to guns; it will not stop people from purchasing firearms. Instead, it's a bill intended to prevent unsupervised access to firearms. Only the gun owner should be able to access it—*not* THEIR children.

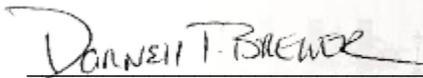
To speak to the necessity of this bill, in Ohio, about 16.5 out of 100,000 people die yearly from a firearm-related injury. Guns are the most common means of suicide in Ohio (938 per year), and 77% of homicides involve guns (639 per year). Not only is any loss of life tragic, but it is also costly. Costs include medical and funeral expenses, law enforcement, legal, and therapy charges. Still, there are indirect costs, such as loss of work, pain, and suffering costs. This bill is sure to save lives, especially the lives of children who would otherwise gain access to an unsafely stored gun. Just recently, a 7-year-old, residing in the District I currently represent was accidentally shot in the head by her 3-year-old sibling. This was a tragic, if not preventable accident. Possibly, If the gun had been properly stored, the children would not have had access to something only a lawfully adult should have access too. In addition, preventing the loss of even one life (as gun safety storage is proven to do) will undoubtedly save millions of dollars for the

people of Ohio. The Keep Every Home Safe Act is important because it will save lives, money, and greatly benefit our state.

Lastly, as I not only speak about HB175, but the importance of Gun Legislation in Ohio. I am reminded of the words, you will often hear me say to the members of this General Assembly and the committees, it's the words of the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.- IN the END, WE will remember not words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends. My friends it's time for us to speak together in combating gun violence here in Ohio. As we hope HB 175 and other commonsense bills aimed at not only saving lives, but address the issue of gun violence plaques the communities, families and neighborhoods we represent. I look forward to my friends on this committee in hearing their voices, solutions, compromises and possible vote on this another legislation addressed in helping to reduce the number of lives lost from gun violence.

Again, I Thank you, Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, my Joint sponsor Rep Miranda, Sandy Hook Promise and the families and friends who all lost or have been hurt by gun violence for allowing me to explain the necessity of the Keep Every Home Safe Act.

Shining a Light,



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