

Testimony on House Bill 186
Ways and Means Committee
September 26, 2023
Submitted by:
Donna Malone

Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the committee. My name is Donna Malone and I am a lifelong Ohioan and a married mother of two adult children, one of whom is a gun owner who has children. Luckily he keeps his guns locked and unloaded. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 186.

There is a recent study by Nationwide Children's Hospital on unintentional shootings involving kids younger than 15 years old. [The study](#) found that in **92%** of the incidents, the guns used were left loaded and unlocked. Unintentional shootings with unsecured guns is not strictly an Ohio problem but as Ohio lawmakers you are in a unique position to try and prevent these sorts of tragedies from happening here.

Gun owners can make their homes and communities safer by storing their guns securely. There is data to show that secure storage lessens the likelihood of unintentional shootings by children. I have included a link to that data here:
<https://everytownresearch.org/report/notanaccident/#impact-of-gun-storage-policies>

House Bill 186 merely asks for a sales tax exemption on firearm safety devices. There is nothing partisan about it. It is a straightforward way to promote responsible gun ownership and to help prevent unintentional shootings. Why not give gun owners further incentive to ensure that their guns do not get into the wrong hands whether those are childrens' hands or someone who intends to do harm with that gun that may have been stolen? I ask that you support House Bill 186.

Sincerely,
Donna Malone
Toledo, Ohio