

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Shannon Gallagher. I am a mother of four, a former middle school teacher, a gun owner, a supporter of Sandy Hook Promise, and a committed advocate for violence prevention. I became an advocate for common sense gun reform a couple years ago as the instances of gun violence in schools rose in our state and around the country. As a mom and an educator, I know it was my responsibility to become proactive in supporting violence prevention programs in schools and communities as well as supporting legislation that addresses the growing concerns of violence in our schools. HB123 provides a much needed solution.

As an Ohioan, I ask in my written testimony for you to support HB123, The SAVE Students Act as it moves forward in the legislature. In a nutshell, The SAVE Students Act would require that 6-12 grader students in Ohio have access to evidence-based programming that would teach them how to combat social isolation, build inclusive school communities, identify the signs and signals of interpersonal violence and suicide, teach students how to reach out for help and create systems for responding to threats appropriately within a school community. It would also establish a statewide anonymous reporting system which would collect tips and information about potential threats to the safety of all Ohio students.

House Bill 123 is the catalyst to create the change our students and educators need not only in Ohio, but in all 50 states. This proactive and evidence based legislation offers Ohio the opportunity to lead the way for other states to follow suit Together we can stop gun violence in our schools and communities before it happens.

Members of the committee, thank you for your consideration and I again urge the passage of House Bill 123, The SAVE Students Act.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gallagher
Dublin, OH