

State and Local Government Committee

Opponent HB 62

Dena Lishing

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 an older teen who got hold of an unsecured gun. If the gun had been locked up properly this could have been avoided.

I oppose HB 62 because making it easier for criminals, drug users and domestic abusers to have guns is not going to make us safer. Having more guns around us all the time will make our children *less safer!*

As a nurse, I know that 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".

My son was killed by an unsecured gun. Having guns around him did not make him safer...it took his life. 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.

You should be spending your time making laws that will make us safer, not adding to all the shootings around us. You MUST Vote NO on HB 62.

Thank you,
Dena Lishing