

FROM SHERWIN ARTUS, HUNTER AND GUN OWNER

Thank you, committee members, for considering this bill. My name is Sherwin Artus and I am a survivor of gun violence. I am writing this as a gun owner in memory of my stepdaughter, Lindsay, who, sadly took her life with a handgun she had just purchased. Because she had no extenuating issues, she did not have to wait long before she was given the gun. Unfortunately, she decided to use it shortly after she received it. I am writing this to ask that you push for the waiting period which would provide a cooling off period when someone is having suicidal thoughts or ideas of committing a mass shooting.

My stepdaughter was an amazingly talented woman. She had received awards for her teaching, was loved and respected by her friends, students, peers, and administrators. Her school canceled classes so the entire school could attend her memorial. She had received several awards for her teaching. We knew she was going through a rough time, but the issues she was dealing with, though many, were temporary. Taking her life was a permanent and a horrible solution to her temporary issues.

Although she had dealt with depression and anxiety at times in her life because of her support systems she normally functioned well and had a full and successful life. She also had a wonderful relationship with her family (parents and siblings), all who were supportive of her, and she had a good relationship with her husband and children. So how could this have happened? Apparently, she became overwhelmed by the issues she was dealing with at the time and couldn't see a way out. She had never expressed a desire to commit suicide, but at that moment the all too easy and quick access to a gun enabled her to commit this permanent act for temporary problems.

I realize this proposed bill may be controversial, and will bring strong opposition from some gun owners and organizations who have strong views concerning gun purchasing and ownership. The proposed bill does not infringe upon the Second Amendment, which speaks of the right to bear arms. A three-day waiting period does not prevent one from owning a firearm; it merely puts a short pause in the time of delivery and possession of the firearm. This brief pause could possibly save a life.

Thank you for considering the passage of this bill for a waiting period to buy a firearm. Hopefully it will prevent others from committing an act that is so devastating, tragic, and permanent.

I strongly urge you to support and pass this bill.

Sherwin Artus