

MY STORY!

I would like to thank the committee members for considering this bill. My name is Kaycie Artus and I am a survivor of gun violence. My daughter, Lindsay, died by suicide in 2021 with a handgun she had purchased a little over an hour before. We know this because the police were able to track her whereabouts.

Lindsay had experienced depression and anxiety since her freshman year in college but had a good support system in place. She had a good relationship with her psychologist and her family, her marriage was loving and stable and she adored her children.

She was a wonderful high school language arts teacher, and was loved and respected by her students who often came to her with their problems because she was a good listener. She was also an excellent teacher. She received the Dave Saunders teaching award as well as teacher of the year at her school. She was so highly regarded by the school that the administration closed school the day of her memorial so the entire faculty and students could attend.

Her loss didn't just affect her family, but her whole community.

Even though she recently she went through a rough spot and was dealing with several issues, they were temporary. She had weathered things of this nature before. And she had hope that things would improve. But apparently this day the darkness just enveloped her, and she made the impulsive decision to buy a gun and end her life. It was a decision that was so sadly and tragically very permanent.

A waiting period can be a cooling off time for someone who is suicidal as well as someone considering a mass-shooting. It isn't saying you can't buy a gun. It just provides time to reconsider. Would a waiting period have prevented Lindsay's suicide? We will never know, but I would like to see it enacted into a law this year and maybe save others from the heartbreak we are experiencing.

Thank you,

Kaycie Artus