

Good Afternoon Chair Smith,  
Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Cheryl Brooks and I reside in Westminster, Md.  
I am in favor of SB858

I am a parent who lost a son to suicide, my son was 30 years old at the time of his death, February 14th was the ninth anniversary. I often wonder if I would have lost him as a child or adolescent if I had an unsecured gun in my home. Michael was never diagnosed with a mental disorder so I would have been unaware of any suicidal ideation.

With our now ever-increasing gun ownership along with an increase in mental health issues, we as adults need to implement policies that limit easy access to lethal firearms to children and adolescents. Suicide is now the third leading cause of death for young americans. Secure gun storage is a commonsense approach to prevent these tragedies from occurring. For these reasons along with the increase in unintentional accidental gun injuries and death, I ask for your support in passing SB858.

Thank you for your time.