

I want to express my support for this bill.

My mother recently died by suicide with a handgun she had just purchased that same day. She did not want to die and she did not want to shoot herself. She wanted to live and play with her grandchildren. But a prescription drug side effect caused her to be impulsively suicidal. She was aware of this and frightened by her altered and dangerous mental state. She immediately took proactive steps to protect herself from suicide every way she legally could. She went to her doctors and psychiatrist regularly and maintained almost daily contact with them. She then voluntarily committed herself to inpatient psychiatric care multiple times in a row. She tried everything she could to not kill herself. Despite the best psychiatric care, my mom ultimately graduated from her hospital programs and impulsively searched for nearby gun stores on her iphone. She drove to the gun store and bought her first gun and shot herself. Our family called the police 5 times that day to prevent the tragedy that was unfolding. My mom had never even held a gun before. She took the gun to a public park and shot herself under a tree. My mom would have signed up for this list because she did not want to die.

Had she been an INvoluntary commitment to the psychiatric hospital she would have been protected from an impulsive suicidal gun purchase. But because she took the initiative to voluntarily commit herself to a psychiatric hospital she was not protected from purchasing a gun. A voluntary waiting period to purchase a gun could have saved her life. I want to be on this list too.

Thank you.

Katrina Brees