

Dear Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On August 6th, 2022, my world was turned upside down when I lost my beloved great niece/daughter, Nykayla, to gun violence. Her death was the result of someone not properly securing their firearm, a tragic oversight that has haunted me and my family every single day. Because of this failure, I am now left to navigate life without her, and I can't help but wonder how many other families are experiencing similar grief due to preventable gun-related tragedies.

In December 2022, in honor of Nykayla, I made the decision to start an organization dedicated to creating safe spaces for children to play and grow. Our mission is to ensure that no child has to face the dangers of unsecured firearms and to provide communities with resources and education about safe gun storage. Since Nykayla's death, I've been heartbroken to see an increased number of children dying due to firearms that are not properly locked away or stored out of reach.

This year 2025, Nykayla would have been turning 18 years old. She had so much potential and so much life left to live, but because of someone's failure to secure their weapon, she is no longer with us. I ask you to take action to prevent this senseless gun violence from happening to other families. It is crucial that we pass laws requiring proper firearm storage and raise awareness about the dangers of leaving firearms unsecured, especially around children.

I urge you to take meaningful steps to protect our children and ensure that tragedies like mine don't continue to devastate families. Thank you for your attention regarding this critical issue. I trust that you will make the right decisions that will create safer communities and protect the lives of our future generations.

Sincerely,

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