

Written Testimony for the House Judiciary Committee
February 28, 2023

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My name is Erica Dziedzic. I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action. I am writing in support of the House Bills which are aimed at reducing gun violence in the state.

I was born and raised in Michigan, and I currently live in East Lansing. My kids are students in the East Lansing School District. My husband is a professor at Michigan State University. While my family and I are very happy living in East Lansing, I often feel afraid when my children leave for school. How do I know if this will be the day when a gunman enters their school? To me, this is not a question of *if*, but *when*.

The mass shooting at MSU made this feeling all too real. My husband and I sat in the back of our house that night, away from our front windows, and listened to the police scanner for 4 hours. We strained to hear the crackly dispatcher voices as they tracked the shooter's every move. I made a mental note of where my children were sleeping in the house and realized my son was sleeping near a window that faced the street. Should I move him to the floor? Every moment the shooter was not found felt agonizing. It sounded and felt like every law enforcement agency in the state descended upon East Lansing. It was our turn. We heard the thunder of helicopters. Dispatchers announced the FBI was on its way. SWAT teams were coming. Police sirens whined in the distance. What if he isn't found tonight? Do we spend the day lying on the floor avoiding windows? My husband checked his phone. "Run, Fight, Hide" texts flashed across his screen. Even as I write this two weeks later, my head spins and my chest tightens. My body can't forget that night and the feeling that my family was in danger in our own home. Why is this our normal? How is this acceptable to anyone? It doesn't have to be this way.

My family was safe on February 13, but many families were not. The families of Brian, Arielle, and Alexandria suffered losses that no one should endure. I am tired of feeling ignored by the Michigan legislature in favor of NRA priorities.

On behalf of every family who has endured active shooter tragedies and for every child who must participate in active shooter training, I am asking you to vote yes on the anti-gun violence House Bills. We can change this lockdown culture.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson and committee members, for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,
Erica Dziedzic
Meridian Township resident