

Melissa Sweet

From: jan liu <janliu1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 12:21 AM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Universal Background Checks, Secure Storage, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders legislation

You don't often get email from janliu1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear House Judiciary Committee Clerk,

Please place the following testimony on file for the hearing tomorrow on the following bills:

Universal Background Checks, Secure Storage, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders legislation

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am a family physician who practices in Perry, MI and lives in Okemos.

Once a year I ask each of my patients whether or not they have a firearm in the home and if so, whether or not it is stored safely. Most of my patients who own firearms are responsible gun owners and report storing them in a safe manner, however a large percentage of them do not. I try to discuss with them the risk of a child obtaining access to their firearm and how this can result in serious injury or death. I talk to them about how a gun in the home increases the likelihood of a depressed family member actually ending their life if attempting suicide. Most of the time these arguments fail to convince patients to safely store their firearms. Some simply don't believe these things could happen to them. Many bluntly tell me that this is "none of your business." I disagree. Anything that can cause injury or death to my patient or their family is my business.

I cannot compel my patients to do the responsible thing when it comes to gun safety, however passing safe storage legislation means I can remind them that it is not just the right thing to do, but that they could be held legally responsible if they don't.

I treat a large number of patients with depression. Sometimes this depression can be quite severe and patients are at risk of suicide. I counsel them on the need to eliminate their access to firearms during this critical period of time. Unfortunately, these are only suggestions with no way of enforcing the removal of a firearm for a patient's own safety. Passing extreme risk protection orders would give those of us who care for suicidal patients a way to temporarily restrict access to firearms when patients are in grave danger.

I believe in responsible gun ownership and as a physician and public health advocate, I also know that we need to pass this common sense legislation that the vast majority of gun owners agree with.

Sincerely,

Jan T. Liu, MD, MHS
Okemos, MI