

Melissa Sweet

From: Amanda Dubey-Zerka <adubeyzerka@wisewillowcc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:25 PM
To: Melissa Sweet
Subject: Universal Background Checks, Secure Storage, and Extreme Risk Protection Orders legislation

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Dear Melissa Sweet, 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 House Judiciary Committee,

I am a mental health therapist in East Lansing who has specialized in the treatment of trauma for the last 16 years. I have seen the profound damage that gun violence can wreck on people's lives. Three weeks ago I spoke with students and teachers terrified after the shooting hoax in the Okemos School district. They would not have been traumatized by the hoax if gun violence wasn't such the public health emergency that it is, if they weren't already hypervigilant, waiting to see when they would be victim to the next school shooting. I have been providing therapy support for the past 2 weeks to students, faculty, and staff at MSU, and community members who have been significantly impacted by the shooting on campus. The impact of this shooting has a far reach and will continue to impact our community for a long time.

Unlocked guns have devastated families and access to firearms for those who are suicidal or are perpetrators of domestic violence lead to tragedy. These laws under consideration have been proven to prevent so much of the trauma mentioned above. Please also remember that gun violence ripples out to so many more than the identified victims. So please have courage, act to pass these bills and do so without delay.

Amanda Dubey-Zerka
Licensed Clinical Social Worker