

Hello, I'm Hannah Birkett a Michigan resident, Michigan State Alumni, an individual who left Michigan and moved back to be closer to family. When my family and I put down roots back in Michigan I was shocked to see the shooting at Michigan State University and seeing three potential rising stars have their fire extinguished in a hail of bullets. I'm a young mother and I fear sending my son to daycare, worried that someone could get access to a gun and end my child's life. I fear constantly when I walk into a grocery store, an open public space, a school and even to work that today might be my last day. I don't want to be afraid anymore and as my representative I want you to support gun safety measures to help protect these public spaces and keep myself and my fellow residents safe.

I'm a social worker and I'm aware of the social, economic and mental health factors that contribute to someone taking the lives of others and themselves. I know many people cry about mental health when these matters transpire but I feel like there is more to it. I feel like a lot of these mass shooters have a mixture of mental health, lack of resources, and not having ways to communicate which is why they take their anger out on others through violence. I feel like politicians tend to rubber stamp mental health yet do nothing to help fund not only mental health but basic needs to help with decreasing mental health in others. I believe we need to fund mental health program as well as social emotional programs in school especially targeted to young boys. I would want to expand background checks as well as close the gun show laws to help with stopping individuals from easily obtaining guns. I support red flag laws to stop individuals who are struggling from using deadly force against others. I don't want any more young adults to lose loved ones, and lose individuals with potential due to someone wanting to prove a point.

I would like secure storage and gun safety to be taught to young adults and children. I have lost a family member due to improper storage and he lost his life at 15 years old. I have worked with families in the Indianapolis area and discussed the importance of gun safety as well as having gun safes. I have discussed with families if their teen is in crisis the importance of

removing guns from the home to make sure that an impulse act did not take place. We need more safety and secure storage around these weapons.

In conclusion as a fellow Michigan resident I deserve the right to be free to walk through a grocery store and not worry about someone open firing on me. I have the right to not be afraid to play with my son in the park. I have the right to state that this small minority of gun owners should not take away my freedom to have a peace of mind, I should not have fear of sending my child to school without thinking about seeing him in a body bag later that day. I deserve that freedom and so do many others which is why you need to vote for gun safety, red flag laws, secure storage, and more background checks. Which is why I support HB4138-HB4148.