

From: Anne Fuller
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 3:01 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 203 and ANS Camp 70

March 28, 2022

To the Representatives:

Thank you for working on this proposal to ensure safe storage of firearms. The Glacier Valley Camp (#70) of the Alaska Native Sisterhood supports House Bill 203. We know that proper storage of weapons (unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition) is good for our great-grandchildren, grandchildren, and children.

We would appreciate an opportunity for public testimony and hope you will advance this bill so that it may become law this year.

Sincerely,

Anne Fuller

Secretary,

ANS Camp 70

██████████

Juneau AK 99802

From: Jennifer Jolis
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 12:30 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 203

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 203. Though not a parent I am a concerned citizen who is appalled and saddened each time (far too often) I read of another incidence of either gun violence or gun accident. Children killed by a friend or a sibling who had access to a firearm without the training or even capacity to understand what the consequences might be. School deaths and traumas that last a lifetime because someone had access to a weapon and a grudge or a mental collapse.

I know that this is controversial which is why I am requesting another opportunity for citizen testimony at a public hearing.

Thank you for your work.

Jennifer Jolis

Emails submitted to HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks 99709

PS: As a Fairbanksan I am proud that this bill was sponsored by two of our local representatives.

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Fleming
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 11:22 AM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 203 Alaska Secure Storage of Firearms Act

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins and members of the House State Affairs Committee:

Thank you for conducting a public hearing on House Bill 203, a bi-partisan proposal for an Alaska Secure Storage of Firearms Act. Enacting this legislation would save the lives of many Alaskans, especially young people.

When we started a family, we added an extra measure of firearms security, a gun safe. For some people, trigger locks are a more convenient and economical way to be responsible. The main thing is to live up to one's responsibilities as a gun owner.

There are a number of areas where the citizenry need some additional encouragement and guidance in order to protect public health and safety. The statistics loudly proclaim that Alaskans need to step up to secure storage of firearms, and this bill will support bringing this about, saving lives without placing an undue burden upon Alaskans.

Thank you for considering my views.
Laura Fleming
Juneau, Alaska

From: Jennifer Jolis
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 10:56 AM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 203

I support this bill. We do have a gun in the house but it is secured. Too many people, innocent people, have had their lives ruined or lost because of an unsecured, easily accessible firearm. From accidents to evil intent, easy access to firearms around a house has often been the significant factor. Please pass this bill.

Jennifer Jolis

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks [REDACTED]

Emails submitted to HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Annette Marley

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 9:36 AM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 203

Thank you House State Affairs for scheduling the hearing for this bill tomorrow. It is a common sense bill that protects children and others from intentional and unintentional injury and death from firearms.

I have 3 children and they spend time at friends' house. I would like to know that owners of guns are required to keep them safely locked and stored for the sake of my children and others.

Thank you for considering the importance of this basic proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Annette Marley, MPH

Anchorage, AK

[REDACTED]

From: john sonin

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 8:43 PM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: Save US the Slavish Distinction

Legislators,

HB 203 will be an instrumental reclamation of conscientious national legitimacy and can serve as the fulcrum upon which MY State can lever proper public policy in addressing its number of irresponsible firearms associated homicides, unintentional shootings, and gun misfires - as well as Alaska's infamous distinction of being the per capita capital of all 50 states for its suicide successes - when it is enacted!

Distinguishing itself as having the second highest rate per capita of lives abruptly finalized by gun per annum, with over 173 back in 2015 (Everytown's "Everystat") and nearly two-thirds of those resulting of a self-terminating intention, MY State would well be on its way to remediating its ignominy if HB 203 were recommended as "Do Pass!"

John Sonin, Douglas

-----Original Message-----

From: Abigail Paul

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 7:22 AM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 203

Emails submitted to HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov

Hello Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of HB 203. I do also have a question. In what ways does current Alaska law already address gun negligence? Would this bill be redundant? I've thought for a long time that laws addressing fire arms safety and security are the "right" kind of gun control laws.

Thanks and Happy Spring!

Abigail Paul

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Donna Stephens

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 1:21 PM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: Gun Safety

I have personally seen the consequences of an unsecured gun and the ongoing financial support required of the State of Alaska to support the victim for full nursing care through the Medicaid system for over 30 years.

Besides the financial toll for Alaska, the emotional toll for the 8 year old child and her family and others of us who loved her were horrendous.

Why would we not demand responsibility from gun owners? The costs are too high not to do so.

While freedom certainly has its place it does not mean guns should be left unsecured for anyone to pick up. My goodness, we require a minimum age and a test to allow people to drive vehicles. Please require that guns be secured!

[REDACTED] (Donna) [REDACTED] (Chris)

[REDACTED], Sterling, AK

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mark S. Johnson

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 12:49 PM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 203 Alaska Secure Storage of Firearms Act

Dear House State Affairs Committee Members,

Emails submitted to HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov

Please support passage of House Bill 203. For too many years, a large percentage of children, teens, and vulnerable adults in Alaska have had easy unsupervised access to firearms. This has resulted in many preventable serious injuries and deaths.

Passage of this legislation should help significantly reduce firearm injuries and fatalities.

It also should help reduce health care costs, including Medicaid payments for hospitalized injuries.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Johnson

Juneau

From: Emily Kane

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 12:14 AM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HB 203

Dear Legislators:

HB 203 encourages responsible gun ownership and will help stop countless preventable premature deaths.

My closest friend in Juneau lost her son to a gun accident just before his 15th birthday over 10 years ago. She will never fully recover from this tragedy. It was a hideous situation with teenage boys being cajoled by a bully to play "Russian roulette." The shooter's dad was ex military and should have known how to keep firearms safely. But without legal consequences, apparently, people get careless. This is not working for our children. Firearms are the first-leading cause of death among children and teens in the state, with an average of 22 firearm deaths every year. Nearly 60 percent of those deaths are firearm suicides.

In Alaska, there is currently no requirement that gun owners secure their firearms whereas our great state has the second highest rate of gun deaths in the country.

Millions of responsible gun owners do follow recommended secure storage practices, but it's estimated that more than half of gun owners do not lock all of their guns, let alone store them unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition as experts recommend.

A 2019 study estimated that if half of households with children that contain at least one unlocked gun switched to locking all their guns, one-third of youth gun suicides and unintentional deaths could be prevented – saving an estimated 251 lives in a single year.

Every year, 173 people die by guns in Alaska and another 332 people are wounded by guns. Alaska has the 3rd-highest rate of gun suicide deaths in the US, and the highest rate of gun suicide deaths among young people. These statistics are unacceptable because they are not just numbers. They represent our youth, and our future. We must, and we can, do better.

Emails submitted to HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov

Please pass HB 203 out of your committee unanimously.

Sincerely,

Dr Emily Kane

Juneau

From: Marian Clough

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 9:06 PM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB203

Written Testimony for HB203 in the Alaska House State Affairs Committee -- March 29, 2022

To the Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

I am Marian Clough, residing in Auke Bay, Alaska, testifying in support of HB203 as a citizen, a parent, a grandma, and as a member of Alaska's Chapter of Moms' Demand Action.

Gun owners in Alaska can make their homes safer by storing their guns securely — which means storing guns locked so children and teenagers cannot access them. Secure storage of guns can prevent unintentional shootings, where a child gets hold of a gun and shoots themselves or someone else.

Currently in Alaska we have no requirement to lock up our firearms when they are not in use. Alaska has the highest rate of gun deaths in the nation. Firearms are the number one cause of death among children and teens in our state, with an average of 22 Alaskan children and teens killed by a gun each year.

HB203, the Alaska Secure Storage of Firearms Act, is a bi-partisan bill with both Republican and Democrat co-sponsors. These legislators recognize that this is a safety issue -- securing our firearms to prevent an unintentional shooting. Having firearms in Alaska is part of our culture; adding a safety measure to prevent an unintentional shooting makes sense to protect our loved ones.

As a parent, a grandparent and an Alaskan, I truly believe this legislation would help to provide a safer environment for the children and teens in our great state.

In addition, I respectfully request that the House State Affairs Committee schedule a public hearing so Alaskans such as myself can speak to you directly about this life-saving bill.

Thank you.

Marian Clough

From: Victoria OConnell Curran

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 7:00 PM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Emails submitted to HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov

<Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support HB203 Alaska Secure Storage of Firearms

Support HB203 Alaska Safe Storage of Firearms Act

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

A Safe Storage Act is so important. Alaskans are too casual with their guns. Our community has been marked by gun tragedies for as long as I have lived here. I moved to Sitka over 40 years ago and worked more than 20 years for the State. This employment was book-ended by two gun tragedies: On my first month of work the young son of one of my coworkers was killed in a game of Russian Roulette. In 2009, a colleague lost his teenage son to suicide by gun. Both of these were tragic, unexpected and shocking events that continue to reverberate. In Sitka in October 2020, a near-tragedy occurred when a 4-year-old was playing with an unsecured loaded AK-47 and fired multiple shots through the wall of the trailer into a trailer park while his father was asleep. I now have 2 young granddaughters and I think about the chances of a gun related accident occurring in home daycare situations or while they may be playing at a friends or relative's house. This terrifies me. Guns are the first-leading cause of death among children and teens in Alaska.

In 2019 the Alaska Division of Public Health found that nearly 50% of Alaska high school students have access to a loaded gun and one in four high school students said they had seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. After these 2+ pandemic years it isn't too hard to imagine that even greater numbers of teens have considered suicide.

A Secure Storage law would help to save the lives of children and teens by reducing access to loaded guns, directly reducing accidents and suicides. I support this bill and hope you all will pass it. My husband and I own many guns and believe strongly in the owner responsibility for safe storage. The strength of the data should secure your vote for this bill, if not please hold a public hearing and allow the public to testify – I believe you will find overwhelming support for this common sense regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Victoria Curran

608 Etolin St.

Sitka, Alaska 99835

From: Sue Libenson

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 4:14 PM

To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: Gun Safety/ Alaska Secure Firearm Storage Act / HB 203

Please schedule a hearing and keep HB 203 - Alaska Secure Firearm Storage Act - moving forward. Too many lives have been lost in Alaska because people had easy access to firearms in moments of distress. The simple, common sense measure of keeping firearms secure could prevent a lot of family tragedies.

Emails submitted to HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov

Thanks

Sue Libenson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Haines, Alaska

From: Teri Inch - she, her, hers
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 7:27 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support HB203

Please schedule the hearing for this bill as soon as possible. This is only the start of what is needed to keep guns out of the mentally ill. Please at least get this going so we can tackle the next hurdle.

Teri Inch

99504

-----Original Message-----

From: Eileen Foyle-saft
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 12:54 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 203

As a 40 year resident of Anchorage, I am in Full Support Of HB 203.

Thank you for reading and I am looking forward to seeing your support of it as well.

Thank you for all the hard work you do.

Best,
Eileen Foyle-Saft
99504