



HALF OF GUN OWNERS HAVE UNSECURED GUNS: **SAFE STORAGE SAVES LIVES.**

A three-year-old finds a gun lying around and shoots herself in the eye in Philadelphia. A teenager in Pittsburgh using his mother's gun to attack a fellow student at school. The young person in a crisis reaching for a parent's firearm trying to quickly end their own pain.

These are preventable catastrophes that started with an unsecured firearm. More than half of gun-owners keep at least one firearm without any lock or other safe storage measure. Gun owners have an obligation in a civilized society to lock up a firearm, but Pennsylvania law does not require them to do so.

Changing that could prevent unintentional shootings, school shootings, and suicide.

HOW IT WORKS



SAFE STORAGE

Safe storage laws require gun owners to keep a firearm secured in a gun safe, with a trigger lock, or in a secured location when not under their control. This ensures that children cannot access the firearm and helps prevent stolen weapons, which are often trafficked underground.



PREVENTING CHILD ACCESS

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children. The American Academy of Pediatrics supports safe storage requirements because it saves lives. One study found such policies decreased firearm fatalities for under 14 year olds by 13%, with demonstrated decreases in firearm homicides (15%), firearm suicides (12%), and unintentional firearm deaths (13%) as well.



FAILURE TO COMPLY

If a gun owner is found to keep a firearm unsecured, they can be held liable under safe storage laws. These consequences range from a low-level fine (a summary conviction) for first-time offenders, to a misdemeanor criminal violation for repeated violations. It would also be required for gun dealers to have a clear posting informing gun owners of this obligation and consequences – failure to do so on the part of the gun dealer would also subject them to a misdemeanor violation.



TAKE A STAND

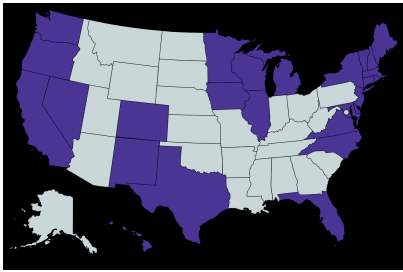
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Safe storage saves children's lives in 26 states.

Pennsylvania should be next.

A 6-year-old was playing in his home with his younger brother in the Pittsburgh suburbs when they discovered an unsecured firearm while playing in the bedroom. No adults were around. Moments later, the 6-year-old unintentionally shot his 5-year-old brother, Connor.

Days later, a 4-year old got ahold of an unsecured loaded gun and shot himself in the face. His name was Ajani Lane and he likely would be alive if the firearm was locked up.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends gun owners store firearms unloaded, locked and separate from ammunition. This is especially true if you have children in your home.

SAVING LIVES

The proposed legislation would help ensure gun owners act responsibly by requiring them to secure their firearms if a child could access it. Many gun owners already do this, but not all of them. And that's why safe storage laws are necessary to save lives.



4.6 M

children in the US live in a home with an unsecured, loaded firearm



80%

of school shooters under age 18 access the firearm from their home or that of relatives or friends



82%

of adolescent firearm suicides involve a gun belonging to a family member



380,000

guns are stolen annually in the United States, with unsecured guns being an easy target



TAKE A STAND FOR SAFE STORAGE AT
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