

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Community Safety, Select
For HB 4472

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:54 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Bryan Allen
Self: Superintendent of Schools
Breckenridge, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Linda Talbot
Self - attorney
Pearland, TX

I support HB 4472!!! The number one killer of children is guns! Whether it is by gun violence by others, unintentional death, or by suicide, we need to educate the public on how to safely store firearms! Not only do I believe in restricting guns to persons under 21, I believe we should educate every parent on the dangers of firearms and how to store them so children cannot access them. Allowing DPS to educate parents through information distributed by schools is a great first step in achieving this goal which should be supported by EVERYONE! This is about safety and saving lives not about restricting firearms. We all must do everything we can to avoid another Uvalde and numerous other similar shootings!

Colleen M Pence
self / marketing
San Antonio, TX

Hello. My name is Colleen Pence. I'm a parent and a citizen of San Antonio and I am your constituent. It is LONG past time for our representatives to pass common sense gun safety laws. Texas has the second highest number of school shootings per state. Children and teens are dying in Texas from guns every day. Parents, like me, are scared to send their kids to school but we are also scared for them to go to parks, theaters, football games, parties, churches, anywhere, really. Please do something to stop this senseless violence and killing. I fully support this bill and I hope our representatives will, too.

Navvab Taylor
Self, architect
Austin, TX

Thank you for supporting education of how to properly store firearms. If the school is the best way to get the message out to parents and the community, so be it, as long as it stops the unnecessary killings ASAP.

Diana Munoz, Ms

Momsdemandaction/Besmartforkids/everytownforgunsaftey/justiceforerika.com

Dallas, TX

As a 3 time gun violence survivor and struggling with Gun Violence since my mid 20's. I know we can do more with any Bill that may save the lives of other's.

I also believe and am in full support for gun safty preventative measures and safe storage in every city and state.

Also as a mother, grandmother, volunteer and advocate of gun safetypreventative measures. I know we can do much more, including as an American and for our country.

If nothing else for the sake of our children ACT on this one

I support this bill. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe.

Thank you,
Diana Munoz

Gayle Alterman
Self
San Antonio, TX

Education is so imperative for people to understand safe gun storage. Knowing to keep guns unloaded and ammo locked has the potential of saving many lives. This is a simple bill to understand and implement. I do hope you will vote yes for HB 4472, people's' lives are depending on your vote.

Geroge Clement
self
Austin, TX

Against - state sponsored propaganda

Donna Schmidt
self, music teacher
Dallas, TX

I strongly support this bill. I volunteer on a regular basis assisting schools with communications related to secure storage of firearms and this bill would greatly help all school districts as they strive to educate parents and families and prevent unintentional shootings of children as well as prevent gunfire on school grounds. We know that anywhere from 75-80% of shootings on school grounds by a minor are obtained from the home or the home of a friend. Therefore secure storage of firearms is critical to the safety of students, educators and everyone on school grounds.

Cindy Fountain, Ms
TXUUJM, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Cleburne, TX

I support this bill. This bill is a wonderful idea! I can't imagine it not receiving unanimous support. Thanks for supporting it!

Jennifer Erickson

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I am the mother of a child in Texas public school and I support this bill. The presence of guns greatly increases danger to children and providing gun safety education similar to health information lives can be saved.

Paul Roach, Rev

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill. It just makes common sense to secure firearms from children. There are too many minors finding unsecured guns and using them to harm others or themselves. It is an easy fix to stop this happening. Thank you.

Natalie Roehen

Self, Student

Austin, TX

This is such a low-key, cost-effective, no-brainer type of addition that it is a wonder that this measure hasn't been implemented already. Safe firearm storage is one of the key tenets behind basic gun education, and one that any and every responsible gun owner ought to know, use, and pass on to the next generation. If the state should submit students to the daily presence of firearms, the least they could do is also provide them knowledge about how to best protect themselves and others through proper storage and preventative measures.

Maritza Wong, Mrs.

Self - Stay at home mom

Manvel, TX

I support this bill. I have two children enrolled in Pearland ISD and the need for secure gun storage education in our community is evidenced by the following incidents that occurred within our district.

- On February 28, 2023, a gun was brought to school by a student at Leon Sablatura Middle School.
- On April 27, 2022, a gun was brought to school by a student at Pearland Junior High West.
- On April 8, 2019, a gun was brought to school by a student at Alexander Middle School.
- On March 9, 2018, a gun was brought to school by a student at Pearland High School.

School administrators cannot carry the burden of preventing school gun violence alone. As parents, we have to do our part in helping create safe school environments. For those that own guns, this means practicing secure firearm storage so that students never have unauthorized access to guns. Secure firearm storage protects children at home as well, by reducing the risk of unintentional shootings and youth firearm suicide.

Parents must understand the role we play in school safety and in protecting our children from the danger of unsecured guns. This bill represents a tremendous opportunity to educate all of us on that. For the sake of our children, please make gun safety a priority in this state and support this bill. Thank you.

Kapil Sharma

Self Physician

Dallas, TX

I support this bill. The tragedy of firearm deaths among children accessing unsecured firearms is preventable. 350 children a year unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else and these tragic deaths can be avoided. I strongly support this bill.

Ginny Gustin
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support this bill

Eric Kunish, Chair
National Alliance on Mental Illness-Central Texas Affiliate
Austin, TX

We support this bill.

Alissa Wallace
Self, Human Resources
Allen, TX

I support this bill. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe.

Maureen Voosen
self - architect
Austin, TX

I support HB 4472 as a way to help for suicide preventions and mass shootings. Thank you

Beverly Barshop
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please expand safe gun storage education.

Jeana Foxman
Temple Emanu-El Dallas
Dallas, TX

On behalf of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, a Reform Jewish congregation with over 2,700 voting-eligible members, we are writing to comment on legislation being heard by your committee on Tuesday, April 18 2023. Our specific positions on the legislation in front of your committee will follow our explanation of how our religious values and faith grounds our viewpoints.

“You shall not stand idly by while the blood of your neighbor is shed,” the Bible instructs us in Leviticus 19:16. Our neighbors’ blood was shed in Uvalde in May of 2022. Uvalde is not the first instance of mass murder; too many other Texas communities have been shattered by needless gun violence by individuals with assault rifles. In houses of worship, schools, medical offices, and grocery stores, at malls, on city streets, and in homes, families and communities are being shattered by gun violence.

The gun violence is not slowing or stopping, and instead continues to spiral out of control both close to home and across the country. As Jews working side by side with other Texans of many faiths, our shared ethical responsibilities as people of faith hold us all accountable for responding to this needless and heartbreaking violence with swift and meaningful action that will help us repair the world and the communities that have been devastated by gun violence.

We are in support of the following legislation and urge you to move the bills to the floor of the House: HB 22, HB 106, HB 236, HB 298, HB 2744, HB 3534, and HB 4472. We believe this legislation, and other similar proposed legislation, will help reduce gun violence in our state without denying lawful citizens their second amendment rights.

We oppose the following legislation: HB 1894. We believe this bill is detrimental to the safety of our communities, perpetuating the environment that allows gun violence to escalate.

We urge you to do everything in your power to bring bills to the House floor that promote the lifesaving work of gun violence reduction efforts and respond to the sacred obligations of the Bible. Working together, we can reduce the rising rates of mass shootings, suicide by gun shot and death in domestic disputes, and other gun-inflicted homicides.

Respectfully submitted,

The Clergy, Board of Trustees, and Advocacy Committee of Temple Emanu-El Dallas

Rebecca Baker
self
San Antonio, TX

As a Christian and a citizen of our state of Texas and the United States, I respectfully beg you to vote in favor of HB236, which would improve background checks on gun purchases (HB236); vote in favor of HB 4472, which would expand safe gun storage education (HB4472); and vote in favor of HB2744 which would raise the minimum age to purchase semi-automatic rifles to 21 (HB 2744). These are reasonable safeguards to protect citizens of our state and help prevent gun purchases by those who should not have them, such as felons, mentally ill, those involved with domestic abuse, and young men and women under the age of 21 who don't have the maturity to own weapons. Please consider your own family members when reviewing these safeguards. Let's reduce gun violence in our state of Texas.

Thanks so much! Rebecca Baker

Linda McCullough
Self
Lago vista, TX

This is a no brainer. Schools should have access to all information and have all the resources to have safe storage of firearms and the legal guardians of the children should be informed about exactly what precautions the schools are taking. This should apply to ALL schools, public and private.

Jeanne Mixon
Self retired
Pflugerville, TX

I am writing in support of HB 4472 requiring parents to be informed about safe firearm storage. There have been so many incidents of children who have grievances or are simply not old enough to understand the consequences of their actions taking firearms from the home to their schools and accidentally or intentionally shooting and sometimes killing teachers and other children that this bill seems like a very reasoned response to at least make sure parents are alerted to the dangers of unsecured firearms. Passing laws about safe firearm storage works better when parents are aware of how to implement safe firearm storage in their homes. This bill is pro law enforcement and allows our officers to reinforce the dangers of unsecured firearms and the inability of young children sometimes to understand the permanent consequences of reckless use of firearms. At the very least, parents would no longer be able to claim in their defense after a tragedy that they had no idea their child had access to firearms that were not properly secured or they had no idea how to secure firearms. I am a homeowner in Texas and I vote in all primaries and general elections. Gun safety and support of law enforcement in their important work are important issues for me. Please consider voting for this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

George Brian Vachris, P.E.
self retired
Humble, TX

It could be useful for schools to educate students and parents in the current law.

Gretchen Pierce
self / stay-at-home mom
Austin, TX

I am a mom with two kids, one who is a kindergartener in public school. I worry about gun violence very single day. Research shows that secure storage practices play a vital role in reducing the risk of gun violence. Storing firearms securely protects children and adults by preventing unintentional shootings and gun suicides. I urge you to pass this legislation to make our communities safer. Thanks for your time.

Jonathan Windsor
Self
Celina, TX

I am against this bill. Stay out of our homes.

Maryann Riordan
Self, Retired
Livingston, TX

I support this bill

Kristin McFarland
Self
Austin, TX

Please pass this common sense gun reform bill to help keep Texans, especially our children safe.

Lisa Phillips
self
Houston, TX

This seems like a no-brainer. Providing parents and legal guardians with the information they need to store their firearms safely would result in many lives saved. Too many young children find their parents weapons and hurt themselves or others. This information should be mandatory.

Leah Raley
Self/Mother
Austin, TX

I am a mother to a kindergartener. I worry every day that I drop her off at school that she might be shot, especially since the murder of 19 children in Ulvade. I urge you to pass HB 4472. Research shows that safe storage reduces unintentional shootings and reduces suicides.

Thank you,
Leah Raley

Stacy Olds, Licensed Master Social Worker
Self
Dallas, TX

I fully support HB 4472. The bill prioritizes safety for ALL Texans. As a social worker in a school district, I interact with children of all ages, along with parents and other family members. In my experience, it is not unusual at all to hear a teenager say: "Yes, I have thought of killing myself." It is also not unusual to hear a teenager or even a tween say: "Yes, I have attempted to kill myself." And sometimes, I have heard stories of young people who did kill themselves. Often, those who succeed have found a gun in their home and turned it on themselves. Or they have hurt or killed someone else. I believe HB 4472 would give of all us a non-partisan way to communicate with each other about keeping each other safe.

Adam Raley
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill, we need to take reasonable measures to protect ourselves from gun violence.

Carlos Luevanos
Self Software Developer
El Paso, TX

i support this

Camilla Ritchey
Self, owner Cibolo Creek Ranch
Bulverde, TX

Please vote in favor of harsher penalties for not storing guns in a locked safe. My parents had guns all over the house, in their cars, my mom carried a little derringer in her purse. I was a very depressed teen and the temptation to "show the all" by killing myself was overwhelming. And the tools to do that were all over my house. Clamp down on that kind of neglect vote for safe gun storage and penalties to people who don't lock up guns.

Fran Eichorst
self - retired
Dallas, TX

I support HB 4472. Each year in America 350 children under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These incidents can be avoided with education. Many people do not realize the danger of leaving a firearm easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe. Thank you, Fran Eichorst

Shannon Flores

self

Katy, TX

I support HB 4472. I am a former public school teacher. I taught middle school and high school science for fourteen years. Firearm suicides are the number one killer of Texas. Educating our young Texans about gun owning households about secure storage makes sense. Suicide rates are increasing and it is important to share resources with families. We lost my uncle to firearm suicide. I also know that when gun owners like myself take precautions to prevent unauthorized access, I can protect my young children and prevent a tragedy.

Alexander Adell

self

Austin, TX

It is evident from the terrifying statistics that the discussion about gun storage needs to be happening much more in many more places. This is a good step.

Melissa Waelchli

self

Austin, TX

I support this bill. This is a small thing we can do to ensure the safety of our children.

Cindy Samuelson

self

Dallas, TX

Writing in strong support--it's past time to take action--there's no easy solution but the TX-lege needs to whittle away at the problem of gun violence in our state NOW. This is a good step.

David McMahon

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill. With over 350 children in the U.S. under the age of 18 gaining access to a firearm each year and unintentionally shooting themselves or someone else, this is a very pressing matter. This can be avoided with education. Let's educate parents and distribute information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe. Please take this important matter seriously.

Andrew Weir
Self/Retired
San Antonio, TX

I write this letter in support of HB 4472.

More than 55 years ago in Bethesda, Maryland I arrived at my high school one morning and learned that a close friend and classmate, Geoff, had been slain in an accidental shooting. We had formed a friendship during middle school where we had both arrived at the same time a few years earlier as "new kids" in the 7th grade. We would later be teammates on the football team and maintain our friendship until that shocking day in 1968 when I learned of his passing.

Before I had enough time to absorb my first experience with the death of someone close to me at the tender age of 16, an emissary from the family approached me asking if I would serve as one of the pallbearers at his funeral. The funeral remains a blur to me today, with one exception. I cannot erase the image of my other classmate who had been with Geoff at that fateful moment he was accidentally shot, sitting between Geoff's parents in the pew directly in front of me. I have always believed that his presence there in the family pew was an intentional signal to the rest of us that they did not hold him responsible for their son's death. Perhaps as a result of that message, the young man was treated no differently by the rest of his classmates for the remainder of our high school years. That said, I suspect every one of us could clearly sense that we were all changed, forever scarred by what had happened on that terrible day.

I was also changed. Like many young boys I had been kind of fascinated with firearms, especially after spending frequent summer vacations visiting my relatives in the Texas Hill Country, many of whom owned firearms and regarded them as simple tools for protection or recreation, but always handled and stored them with care. After Geoff's passing, I never again felt any desire to own a firearm. I thought about the fact that the gun that had killed him was left loaded and accessible in his father's nightstand and wondered if his father would be haunted by his carelessness. But there was hidden damage to me that would take years for me to understand.

I developed a tendency to create conflict in relationships and manufacture estrangements. This would almost cost me my marriage. Eventually a therapist would dig deep enough to discover this tendency was probably rooted in the wrenching loss of my friend many years earlier. My marriage has survived and grown stronger, but my past includes numerous lost friendships, the results of my efforts to preempt potential pain should another tragedy again intervene in my life.

This tragedy is just one example of the wreckage that carelessness with firearms can inflict on an entire community, not just the victims. As you consider HB 4472, I hope my story helps you decide on what its fate should be. Please note that I can provide additional documentation that can confirm the veracity of these remarks, should you need that.

Ashley Matthews
Self
Houston, TX

I am in support of this common-sense gun safety solution.

Allen Dinsmore
self
Mineola, TX

I support this bill into law. BUT, we must be careful that this bill/law does not turn into something rogue prosecutors can use against the innocent. Unfortunately evil people will inevitably find ways to be evil! Also, I (as 99.9% of everyone I have ever known) would support having firearm safety classes in ALL schools taught by a qualified firearms "expert" with hands on experience starting at a very young age. In reality, I had a shotgun training session (we were able to shoot skeet) at my school when I was in the 5th or 6th grade and it was very helpful! Think of the state Hunting safety course in schools! Thank You!

Laurie Heller
self, graphic designer
Houston, TX

I support YES votes on HB4472. Please please listen to the overwhelming majority of Texans who support this gun safety legislation. We can keep responsible gun ownership protected while increasing safety for everyone by expanding safe gun storage education.

Kristin Jarzombek
Texas Mom Making Decisions
Austin, TX

I support this bill

GABRIELLE Volkmer
self
Schertz, TX

I support this bill. 3/4 of school shooters under the age of 18 years old obtain the firearm used from the home of a family member or friend. Educating parents on safe gun storage could go a long way to prevent kids from accessing fire arms, which could prevent unintentional shootings, and prevent kids from bringing those unsecured guns to school. Please consider passing this bill.

Harper Klamian, Ms
self
Pflugerville, TX

When a 6 year old can bring a gun that was "safely stored" to school I think it's time to really line out what safely stored means and hold people accountable. I've lived with a weapon in my home with my child present and I can say for a fact my child would NEVER have been able to gain access to that weapon. I know this because I had training in how exactly to secure and store said weapon. No one should be able to purchase a gun without knowledge on the requirements and expectations of owning one.

Norma Hackler
SELF
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Yes, to requiring information to flow from TDPS and TSSC regarding safe firearm storage is essential to keeping Texas families safe from accidental and non-accidental shootings.

Amelia Vasquez
Self/Housekeeping
Uvalde, TX

Enough Is Enough!

Al Lindsey, M.D.
Moms Demand Action, Texas Gun Sense
Austin, TX

Safe storage of firearms means in a locked safe, with the key not readily available to unauthorized persons. This prevents their being stolen, and prevents a 6 Yo from taking his mother's gun to school and shooting his teacher.

Annette Martinez, Ms
Self Retired Teacher
Austin, TX

FOR. It's a small simple thing that could save many children's lives.

Elizabeth Steele
clinical social worker
HOUSTON, TX

Please support this bill to insure information and education for parents to store firearms.

Harold Waters
self
Houston, TX

This is excessive and imposes unnecessary burdens on the citizens of this state. Please do not vote for this bill.

Elva Mendoza
Self; public health social worker
Austin, TX

I fully support HB 4472. The increase of children bringing guns into schools is incredibly alarming and dangerous. The problem is happening all over the country, not just in Texas. Recently, a six year-old brought a gun to school and shot his teacher. And here in Texas, a three year-old just shot her four year-old sister dead. If the Santa Fe mass shooter's parents had stored their firearms safely, ten Texans would be alive today. Parents clearly need information on how and why to store firearms safely. This is too important to hope that all school districts will think about doing this on their own; we need to ensure as many parents as possible have access to safe storage information. Please pass this bill.

Leigh Gibson
Gun Owners of America
Kerrville, TX

This strain on DPS and the Texas school system is an unreasonable request. There is a hiring deficit among law enforcement branches throughout the State of Texas. To rely on officers and teachers to distribute information on proper firearm safety is not reasonable. Please explain who will be writing and producing this curriculum.

Diane McMichael
Self
Austin, TX

Please support. Safe gun storage is common sense and will keep Texans safer from gun violence, suicides, and unintentional shootings. This is not a controversial ask. Support.

Katie Duzan
Self
Arlington, TX

I support this bill. Firearms are the number 1 cause of death for kids. Safe storage information saves lives and preventable deaths. Parents receive dental hygiene information and resources from our schools. That is helpful. Why don't we also equip parents with information to prevent unintended access to firearms? This bill offers high impact for life and low impact to cost.

Wendy Cone
Self:Parent
Dallas, TX

If passing out this information to parents can save one child's life it's worth it. Education will save lives!

Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Karla Crabtree
Self
Bellaire, TX

Safe gun storage is a common sense gun regulation that protects all of us. Educating parents of children about these measures makes sense - it protects that family and others around them. I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Kimberly Hammond
Self
Kingwood, TX

I support bills that expand safe gun storage education (HB 4472).

Debbie Carrico
SELF AMERICAN
League City, TX

IF IM READING THIS CORRECTLY... DEFINITELY EVERY PARENT SHOULD HAVE ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR CHILD AT A MOMENTS NOTICE AND SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED TRAINING AND EASY ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Marcelle Rhodes
Self -- self employed
The Woodlands, TX

I think this article about the increase in guns in the home, and the access to them, is enlightening. Hopefully safe storage would help limit the number of intentional and unintentional deaths and injuries, so I support this bill. Thank you for trying to keep our children safer. <https://www.michiganmedicine.org/health-lab/most-school-shooters-get-guns-home-and-more-weapons-are-there-pandemic>

Susan Pollard
self
Porter, TX

I support this bill. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. More than 4.6 million children live in a home with a loaded and unsecured gun. Here in my community, a 3 year old found an unsecured gun and shot himself at his own birthday party. This is devastating. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe. Please support this bill. Thank you.

Mark Russell
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB 4472.

I oppose HB 4472 because it is an unnecessary requirement and an unnecessary use of public funds. The role of schools is to educate children in academic subjects. Schools do not need to be forced to distribute firearm information and resources to parents by the State.

Therefore I respectfully ask the committee members to vote against HB 4472.

Thank you.

Kate Weaver
self
Austin, TX

For our children's safety!

Ian Kress
Myself. Engineer.
Nassau Bay, TX

I am against this bill. This bill would require the State provide to all schools “information and resources about safe firearm storage”, without providing any details as to if the messaging will be non-political in nature and merely how to properly store firearms, or if the message will be to not own firearms.

Jennifer Elbert
self - retired teacher
COPPELL, TX

I respectfully ask that you join me in supporting HB 4472.

Like many Texans, I am horrified by the extreme number of shootings involving children. It’s critical that Texas government take responsibility for educating Texas parents about legal requirements for safe storage of their firearms.

We need education programs for parents, as specified by HB 4472, and we also need education for children and the community at large on how to stay as safe as possible amidst increasing gun accidents and gun violence.

Texas must do more to keep our children safe!

Leslie Ausburn
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please do right by our children and expand rules around safe gun storage. Vote yes for this bill.

Kelley Rumps
self/retired
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose this bill.

Jessica Lamberg
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please support this safety measure. It will help keep our children and communities safe. Thank you.

Karen miller
Retired
AUSTIN, TX

A really terrible idea! No! No!

Laura Jenschke
JenschkeBuilders
Fredericksburg, TX

I support this bill. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else.

My first cousin's 3 year old grandchild got his gun from the bedside table drawer and shot himself. The grief this family has been through has changed everyone forever. It could have been avoided if this bill would have been passed into law.

These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe.

Flynn Rooney
Moms Demand
Houston, TX

Protect the people of this state. This is such a small thing and I would personally like to see more in this bill such as insurance requirements and registration of all firearms requirements. But, if this is all you can agree on then let's move this one forward. Gun safety storage is imperative and simple. Get this done or lose your jobs. Simple as that.

Andrea Vignale
Self
Arlington, TX

I Support this bill! Simply put, we all want our children safe. This bill simply says to teach our children how to safely store guns. Such a simple request but it has the potential of saving lives and not threatening or infringing on gun liberties.

Mae Ghalwash
Self/freelance
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 4472, because if passed it will help educate parents about safe gun storage and thus save children's lives. Each year, some 350 children under the age of 18 get hold of a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. We can prevent such needless injuries and life loss by educating families about the dangers of leaving firearms where their children can access them. Some parents aren't even aware of the dangers. But if schools distribute information regarding safe gun storage, they can help save lives. In fact, schools may be the only place parents will receive such information. With gun violence increasing daily we must do everything in our power to keep our kids safe.

Miriam Sharma
Self, registered nurse
Dallas, TX

I support this bill. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe.

Nikki Berry, RN
self/ Retired/Disabled RN
Lago Vista, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am Nikki Berry writing in support of HB 4472. I am writing for myself, but in honor of and fear for my disabled twin grandbabies. They have Type 1 Spinal Muscle Atrophy, the most severe, genetic, rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. Gray and Adelaide turned 5 in January, which in itself is a major miracle. The life expectancy for these children is less than 2 years, some very much less. Many die after birth before they ever get diagnosed.

And even though it's a fatal diagnosis, Adelaide can't get Medicaid. Her brother did after spending over 3 months in Dell ICU, almost dying multiple times. He came home with a hole in his throat and one in his gut. That's the only reason he qualified, with the same fatal diagnosis. Same parents, same jobs, same money. There will never be enough money for all these kids' needs.

I wish I could be there to testify with their pictures, they are so precious. That was my plan, but I'm not well enough now. Our children were luckily born after the first real treatments and gene therapy were developed, or they would be dead now in most circumstances.

In this moment, I'm thinking back over all the children and adults who've been slaughtered, in just the last month, by these rifles and other guns. I think about the profound grief of their families and circles of influence.

In this moment, I'm visualizing my grandbabies, so excited to be in kindergarten next August. Sitting in their wheelchairs in their cutest clothes, in front of the class. They are incredibly excited and very smart. Having been so sheltered their entire lives due to their conditions, and Covid. They've never even had a birthday party with other children. And NOW, they'll have friends, real friends. Socialization with their peers. They can hardly wait!

In this moment, I'm horrified at the thought. I can see the maniac blasting away into their classroom, obliterating every five or six year old there. Mine will be first. Who will protect MY kids in wheelchairs? Who will protect any disabled kids who will be sitting ducks?

In this moment, as an RN, my heart is racing, and I can not visualize the sickening carnage. All those kids who will need DNA for identification because their bodies are scattered all over the room. But my precious grandbabies, the only ones I will ever have, won't need DNA. Half of their bodies will still be strapped into those wheelchairs.

Beverly McClure
self-retired
San Antonio, TX

Re safe storage education: Given that much of the gun violence knowingly or accidentally committed by children/teens come from guns they gained access to in their parents' homes, we must educate our parents of the imperative to safely store their guns. This is part of being a responsible gun owner. With the right to carry firearms, comes a responsibility to safeguard them. Perhaps this education could also be repurposed for community education in private schools. This should be an easy bill to gain support from both sides of the aisle.

Melinda Luevanos

Self

El Paso, TX

I support this bill. As a mother of 4, I am constantly bombarded with information on how to keep my kids safe. There are car seat checks, vaccination reminders, stranger danger and plenty of others. The one thing that nobody talks about enough is the secure storage of firearms. Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens under 18 in America. With firearms being so dangerous, we need to do everything we can to educate parents and gun owners on how to keep our children safe. Responsible gun ownership is not controversial. Every year, 350 children unintentionally shoot themselves or others with unsecured firearms. With education, this number could be greatly reduced. Parents need to be informed about the secure storage of firearms and how to ask about the presence of firearms in other homes. This bill is absolutely necessary and should be a priority.

Sandi Hebley, RN, LMSW

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill because I value the lives of our children! Every year in this country 350 kids under 18 gain access to unsecured guns in the home and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. I'm mass shootings committed by youngsters, the vast majority acquired the guns at home or the home of a relative. Guns are the leading cause of death for kids in this country now. It is unreasonable to expect kids not to use or play with guns they find "lying around." Anything we can do to educate the adults about the importance of safe storage will save lives! Please vote YES on this important bill. Thank you.

Kathleen Brennan

Individual

Pearland, TX

I support this bill. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe.

Sarah May, Mrs.

Self

Pearland, TX

I support this bill!! Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe.

Martha Baeza Garcia
BeSmartforkids.org, self
Dallas, TX

I want to express my support for this bill. We are hearing more and more about children having access to loaded guns and hurting themselves and others. Knowledge/information is key in reducing these tragedies. These incidents are preventable with training, and spreading the word that 1) it is an offense to allow a minor access to a loaded gun in the state of Texas, 2) gun owners should model good behavior when handling a gun (do not point a gun at a person or place finger on the trigger when not shooting), 3) properly secure a gun (separate from ammunition) using gun locks, storage lock box, gun safes (The top of closets, inside drawers, and table tops are unacceptable places to leave a gun). And 4) know that the presence of a gun in a home increases the chance of a /successful/ suicide, especially in young teens who can hurt themselves on an impulse.

Please pass this bill that will provide information and resources regarding safe firearm storage to parents and guardians via their schools.

Dorothy susan Montz
Self
Pearland, TX

I support this bill. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of what they are doing by leaving firearms easily accessible to children. By educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage, schools can help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. With the amount of gun violence increasing daily as well as an ever growing list of incidents with guns on campus, we must do everything we can to keep kids safe.

Amy Ghiselin
self
Pearland, TX

I support HB 4472. Every year, 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. These are incidents that can be avoided with education. Sometimes parents don't realize the danger of leaving firearms easily accessible to children. Educating parents and distributing information regarding safe storage at schools will help save lives. This may be the only place parents receive information about secure gun storage. Daily gun violence and incidents of students bringing guns on school buses and campus is increasing. As responsible adults and citizens, we must do everything we can to keep children safe. Sincerely, Amy Ghiselin, Pearland, TX 77584

Forrest Myane
Self/Nonprofit Executive
San Antonio, TX

There is nothing more critical that the House can do in this session than protecting our children from gun violence. My friends lost their children on May 24th in Uvalde and my child is more likely to die from gun violence than any other cause of death. It's unacceptable that we allow this to continue in our state and country. This bill is a step in the right direction to protect our children.

Claudia Harding
Self-Self/Employed
Manchaca, TX

Hello,

I am a constituent of this great state and am asking that Texas do its part to solve the gun problem here and in the U.S. We are asking for common sense gun laws like

H.B. 4472 which expands safe gun storage education for parent or legal custodians of students.

Thank you