

## Melissa Sweet

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**From:** Kate Stevenson <peaceakate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:09 PM  
**To:** Melissa Sweet  
**Subject:** Testimony for House Judiciary Hearing Tomorrow (Wednesday): Gun Violence 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 professional in East Lansing and Okemos who has specialized in the treatment of trauma for the last 22 years. I have seen the profound damage that gun violence can wreck on people's lives over and over again. 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. And then two weeks ago I ran trauma recovery and crisis intervention groups for students and faculty at MSU who had barricaded doors and hid from the shooter on campus.

I have seen how 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.

Kate Stevenson  
Owner of Open Hand Counseling LLC