

Amy Mayhew
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Good Morning, Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Amy Mayhew, and I am a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist. I live in Falmouth and have been treating children for over ten years. I studied medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, did my adult psychiatry residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Texas and completed my child psychiatry fellowship at Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In the course of my nine years of medical training and nine years as an attending psychiatrist, I have seen many people who have contemplated suicide, attempted suicide, or been adversely affected by impulsive decisions that may or may not involve firearms. Although some individuals ponder and plan a suicide attempt, there are many who act impulsively and attempt suicide after an argument with a parent, failing a driving test, a break up, failing a test at school. In one week, I interacted with the family of one teen who took a handful of pills in a suicide attempt and another who used a firearm. The first teen survived to enter treatment; the second did not. I also have seen families where one child accidentally shot and killed their sibling while examining the family gun, as well as another family where the child killed themselves while mimicking Russian roulette with friends. We know that impulsivity is part of adolescence and childhood; it is our job as adults to help our children learn from these poor decisions, not die from them. It is not always possible to identify when a family member is in danger of such an impulsive act; I request that we protect our children from impulsive decisions that may not be undone by safely securing our firearms. Thank you.