



Sample Op-Ed

To my fellow community members:

If you're like me, you are saddened, confused, frustrated and your heart breaks every single time we hear of some sort of gun violence. Whether it happens in another state or right here in our home communities, these tragedies are becoming too common.

I know this can be a divisive issue, but I want to share that I am choosing not to see it that way. I am looking at the data that says that gun violence is the #1 killer of children in our state -- more than cancer and car accidents -- and choosing to see this as a common ground problem that we, as a state, can solve together.

That's why I am supporting the Special Session on firearm safety that the Tennessee Legislature will have beginning August 21, 2023. I hope to see them pass some laws that strengthen responsible gun ownership while also protecting our communities from gun violence when we gather in our everyday lives -- from school to community events to shopping.

Specifically, I support temporary transfer laws that protect individuals in crisis from accessing firearms. I also support better gun storage laws and the need to report when a weapon has been lost or stolen. Finally, I support more consistent background checks so that people who are not legally allowed to own guns cannot so easily buy them.

I learned a lot from a group I joined called Voices for a Safer Tennessee (Safer TN). Look them up. Learn about the issues and the support our state is showing for these kinds of measures - the vast majority of Tennesseans support these kinds of laws. Join the effort and tell our legislators that you support their votes for safer laws.

Thank you for listening.

YOUR NAME, YOUR CITY