



To Whom It May Concern:

The parents and teachers at [NAME OF SCHOOL] recognize that keeping children safe and injury-free is our highest responsibility. That's why we choose to Be SMART.

Every day, parents protect children from injury with safety gates, cabinet locks, car seats, bike helmets, and other life-saving devices. Adults are responsible for keeping children safe from injuries caused by unsecured guns just as they are for keeping kids safe from other preventable injuries, and loaded, unlocked guns can pose a serious risk to children.

A shocking 1.7 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked. Every year about 100 children 17 and under die in unintentional shootings, and many more suffer non-fatal gun injuries, often ones that we never even hear about. More than 400 children 17 and under die each year by suicide with a gun. Many of these tragedies could be prevented if adult gun owners stored firearms unloaded and locked. Support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with gun owners' responsibility to use guns responsibly and store guns safely when they are not in use. Storing guns responsibly and safely is the key to protecting children from unintentional injuries and preventing teen gun suicide.

We support the Be SMART campaign, which educates the public about the importance of responsible gun storage and how gun owners and non-gun owners alike can help reduce child gun deaths by practicing and promoting responsible gun storage. We urge parents and caretakers to be "SMART" and take five simple steps to help prevent unintentional child shootings and suicides, by: Securing all guns in homes and vehicles; Modeling responsible behavior around guns; Asking about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes; Recognizing the risks of teen suicide; and Telling peers to be SMART.

We Choose to Be SMART: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of PTA or School Representative) \_\_\_\_\_

(Print Name of PTA or School Representative) \_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

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