

**Testimony of Mr. Luther Brown**  
**Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary**  
**November 2, 2018**

“Holla back, Papa.”

These are the words my eight-year-old grandson said to me the last time I saw him. I never really knew what that meant, but I now understand what he was saying to me -- not “Goodbye,” but “Holla back.”

On January 9, 2016, a negligent adult with a gun took the life of my grandson, Andre O’Neal, Jr. We called him Baby Dre. Baby Dre fought hard to stay alive with every power in his being.

And that is why I fight with everything I have to prevent more senseless deaths, to prevent other families from having to live with only memories of their children.

I came here to tell you about our program, The Little Hands, Little Feet Gun Safety Program.

This program teaches children about gun safety and violence prevention by connecting them with local safety officials and crime prevention speakers.

We teach children to STOP, DON’T TOUCH, BACK AWAY from the gun, and CALL AN ADULT. We stress the seriousness of gun safety.

In our program, families create family protection plans so children and youth know how to stay safe in their schools, homes, and communities.

We promote safe gun storage by teaching parents the proper ways to secure and store guns in their home.

And we provide free gun locks.

But more than that, we teach children how to make a culture change and create a new beginning in their environments.

But we need your help. Without a change in the law, senseless deaths will continue because there are too many unsecured guns in the home.

We must hold people accountable and make policies that will change people's behaviors in how they store their guns.

Over the years I have talked to many parents and grandparents, and they seem to always have the same opinion -- that it's never going to change because nobody really cares. You have the opportunity to show these families that you are listening and that you care.

The memory of Baby Dre will always live in my heart. I will never let it go because my job now is to save as many children as I can. We have to do more to protect our babies.

For anyone interested, we provide The Little Hands, Little Feet Gun Safety Program every Tuesday at the Shively Community Center, 1901 Park Road for children ages 6-12. Dinner is served, and parents are encouraged to attend.

Our program was featured on nratv.com as part of "The Good Guys" segment. I ask that you take a look at the video, which can be found at this link:

<https://www.nratv.com/videos/cam-and-company-2017-little-hands-little-feet>

I would like to thank the Chairman for putting this issue on the agenda, and I would like to thank the committee members for your consideration of this important legislation.