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Dear House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

I am the grandmother of a 6th grader at Highlands Elementary School in Fairway, KS. On March 1, 2019, a normal Friday school pick up day turned out to be anything but normal. As I drove up to the school, it was surrounded by police cars and yellow tape was blocking the entrance. I was told the children were on lockdown because of a shooting near the school earlier in the afternoon.

I felt reassured of her safety as they brought her out to my car with a school employee, but this was a sense of false safety. As I drove out of the school parking lot and started to turn down the street by her house, out of the corner of my eye I saw two police with guns drawn and screaming at someone...I immediately stopped my turning process and stepped on the gas to get out of the way...in one split second we could have been in the middle of that shooting and caught any of the 24 rounds of gunfire.

It haunts me to think that my granddaughter would have been the one to get hit since she was on the passenger side of the front seat..it was only by the Grace of God that I did not complete the turning onto that street and not the protection of the police.

There has to be something done and done now about stopping people with dangerous histories from owning guns. There are so many questions about this situation and the securing of the house where this violent person lived. The police had been at this home several times before answering calls for drug possession and domestic violence. It should have been number one on the list of places to check out especially since the bullets were coming from that direction. It is essential to vote no on HB 2326 and focus on laws that will help keep us safer from gun violence.

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