

My name is, Lindsay Powell, and I am from Warren, VT. I'm a mother and Real Estate Agent. I am also a member of the Vermont chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and we support H.606, which contains several important gun safety provisions.

H.606 is a sensible, life-saving gun safety bill that would ensure people who have been found by a court to be a danger to themselves or others because of mental illness cannot purchase or possess a firearm, it would ban machine guns and other rapid-fire devices, and hold the gun industry accountable. We are advocating for these policies because they make our communities safer and help reduce gun violence.

In recent years, law enforcement has seen an increase in DIY machine guns recovered from crime scenes. These weapons are handguns modified with devices known as switches that allow them to fire like machine guns, and they have no place on our streets or in our communities. We support H.606 because it would ban machine guns and also expand our existing ban on bump stocks to include all rapid-fire devices, including switches.

If a gun company chooses reckless practices over public safety, they should be held accountable in court. Every other industry, from Big Pharma to tobacco to makers of ordinary consumer products, has to answer for the harm they cause, and the gun industry should be no exception, even though federal law has given them special protection. Survivors of gun violence deserve their day in court to seek the justice they're owed. We support H.606 and its provision that would empower survivors of gun violence and our state attorney general to hold the gun industry accountable in court when it engages in business practices that harm our communities.

In Vermont, we're grateful that our state and local lawmakers have consistently prioritized gun safety in recent years. As a result of this progress, Vermont now has the 17th strongest gun safety laws in the country. But there's always more work that can be done to save lives. That is why I encourage you to vote yes on H.606.

Lindsay Powell