

Safe At Home Toolkit

Senate Bill 8

Sen. Laura Ellman & Sen. Ram Villivalam
Rep. Maura Hirschauer & Rep. Kevin Olickal

[Illinois House Leadership](#)

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Core Messaging

- Today, there are more guns in our country than people, and every one in three children lives in a home with a gun.
- Too many tragedies have resulted when guns get into the hands of children, at-risk people, and people prohibited from owning a gun.
- Studies show that unsecured firearms and lost and stolen guns are fueling incidents of suicide, unintentional shootings, mass shootings, and crime in our communities.
- We can better promote responsible gun ownership in Illinois by enhancing what it means to safely store weapons and strengthening reporting requirements for lost and stolen guns.
- Safe and secure storage practices help prevent guns from being stolen, diverted into illegal markets and used in gun crime.
- Safe At Home will prevent children and at-risk and prohibited people from accessing deadly firearms and inflicting crime and violence in our communities.
- In states with secure storage laws, unintentional shootings by children were 78% lower than in states without such laws, [according to Brady United](#).

- Lost and stolen reporting laws reduced traced illegal gun movement by 46 percent compared to states without such a law, according to Everytown.

Data Points

The Problem:

- 54% of gun owners don't lock all their guns securely.
- Every year, 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or others.
- In three-quarters of school shootings, the shooter acquired the firearm from their parents or other relatives (U.S. Secret Service).
- An estimated 82% of adolescent firearm suicides involve a gun belonging to a family member (Johns Hopkins).
- Every year, over 380,000 firearms are stolen from their lawful owners, often diverted into illegal markets fueling gun crimes and violence.
- Guns reported lost were 3 times more likely to be used in crimes, while stolen guns were 9 times more likely to be used in crimes (UC Davis).

Impact of Secure Storage Laws:

- Unintentional shootings by children decrease 78% in states with secure storage laws (Brady United).
- Illegal guns movement down 46% in states with lost and stolen reporting laws (Everytown for Gun Safety).
- 72% of U.S. adults, including 58% of gun owners, support requiring by law that people lock up their guns in their home when not in use to prevent handling by children or teenagers without adult supervision (Johns Hopkins).
- A suicide attempt using a firearm is fatal in 90% of cases (Johns Hopkins).
- Black youth are currently experiencing three times greater firearm suicide rates than they did a decade ago, demonstrating further need to limit firearm access by children and teens (Johns Hopkins).
- Research from 2020 found that states with strong Safe Storage policies have seen an estimated 12% reduction in youth firearm suicides (among children ages 0–14) and a 13% reduction in deaths and injuries among the same population resulting from unintentional shootings (Johns Hopkins).
- In one study, researchers posited that between 6% and 32% of all youth firearm deaths could be prevented through the passage and implementation of strong Safe Storage laws (Johns Hopkins).

Sample Email

SUBJECT: Help Us Keep Our Communities Safe

Dear [FIRST NAME],

Today, there are more guns in our country than people, with every one in three children living in a home with a gun. With this level of gun ownership in our society, too many tragedies have resulted when guns get into the hands of children and at-risk and prohibited people, making our communities less safe.

Studies show that unsecured firearms and guns that are stolen are fueling accidental shootings, incidents of suicide, mass shootings, and crime in our communities. But studies prove that stronger safe storage weapons practices and stronger reporting requirements for gun owners when their weapons are lost and stolen can prevent this senseless violence.

In our country today, 54% of gun owners do not secure all their firearms, increasing the risk of unintended injuries and deaths. Each year, approximately 350 children under 18 accidentally shoot themselves or others. Alarming, in about three-quarters of school shootings, the firearm was obtained from a parent or relative, according to the U.S. Secret Service.

Additionally, an estimated 82% of adolescent firearm suicides involve a gun belonging to a family member, according to Johns Hopkins.

Weapons that are unsecured and lost are also fueling crime and violence on our streets. A study from UC Davis found that lost guns are three times more likely to be used in crimes, while stolen guns are nine times more likely to be involved in criminal activity.

That's why [I am / ORGANIZATION is] proudly supporting the Safe At Home Campaign (Senate Bill 8).

We can better promote responsible gun ownership in Illinois by passing Safe At Home this spring session.

[Contact your legislator today and tell them to pass Safe At Home!](#)

Together, we can prevent children, at-risk individuals and people prohibited from owning a gun from accessing deadly firearms and inflicting crime and violence in our communities.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping us all Safe At Home..

Sincerely,

XXXXXXX

Sample Letter to the Editor

Today, we face a sobering reality: there are more guns in our country than people, and one in three children lives in a home with a firearm. This level of gun ownership carries a profound responsibility to ensure we are doing all we can to prevent tragedies.

But studies show that unsecured firearms and lost and stolen guns are fueling incidents of suicide, unintentional shootings, mass shootings, and crime in our communities. Stronger safe and secure storage weapons practices can help this senseless violence.

In our country today, 54% of gun owners do not secure all their firearms. Each year, approximately 350 children under 18 accidentally shoot themselves or others. Alarming, in about three-quarters of school shootings, the firearm was obtained from a parent or relative, according to the U.S. Secret Service.

Additionally, Johns Hopkins found an estimated 82% of adolescent firearm suicides involve a gun belonging to a family member.

Weapons that are unsecured and lost are also fueling crime and violence on our streets, according to a study from UC Davis that found lost guns are three times more likely to be used in crimes, while stolen guns are nine times more likely to be involved in criminal activity.

Lawmakers must pass the Safe At Home legislation (Senate Bill 8) to better promote responsible gun ownership in Illinois. We must do more to prevent children, at-risk individuals and prohibited people from accessing deadly firearms and inflicting crime and violence in our communities.

Sample Phone Script

Hi, my name is [NAME] and as your constituent, I am calling in support of the Safe At Home campaign, legislation to better promote responsible gun ownership in Illinois by enhancing what it means to safely store weapons and strengthening reporting requirements for lost and stolen guns.

Too many tragedies have resulted when guns get into the hands of children and at-risk and prohibited people. Studies show that unsecured firearms and lost and stolen guns are fueling incidents of suicide, unintentional shootings, mass shootings, and crime in our communities. I'm asking [LAWMAKER] to co-sponsor Senate Bill 8 and asking that they have the bill called for a vote before the end of the year.

Social Media

SOCIAL POST 1



Facebook / Instagram:

Every child deserves to grow up feeling safe — at home, in school, and in their community. But unsecured guns in the home put that safety at risk.

Senate Bill 8 (#SafeAtHome) will help keep our communities safe by requiring secure firearm storage and mandating that lost or stolen firearms are reported.

Take Action:

<https://gvpaction.com/act/tell-your-legislators-to-co-sponsor-safe-firearm-storage-act-and-tell-your-legislators-to-report-lost-and-stolen-firearms-reporting-bill-n/>

Blue Sky / X:

Every child deserves to feel safe — but unsecured guns at home put that at risk.

SB 8 will help by requiring secure storage and reporting of lost or stolen firearms.

Take Action:

<https://gvpaction.com/act/tell-your-legislators-to-co-sponsor-safe-firearm-storage-act-and-tell-your-legislators-to-report-lost-and-stolen-firearms-reporting-bill-n/>

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SOCIAL POST 2



Facebook / Instagram:

All parents hope their kids will grow up to reach their full potential. But children are vulnerable — and we need to protect them from what can harm them.

Senate Bill 8 (#SafeAtHome) strengthens safe storage requirements to help prevent tragedy and give every child a chance to grow up.

Tell Springfield to Pass SB :

<https://gvpaction.com/act/tell-your-legislators-to-co-sponsor-safe-firearm-storage-act-and-tell-springfield-to-pass-sb-8>

Blue Sky / X:

Children are vulnerable — and we must protect them.

SB 8 (#SafeAtHome) strengthens firearm storage laws so every kid has a chance to grow up.

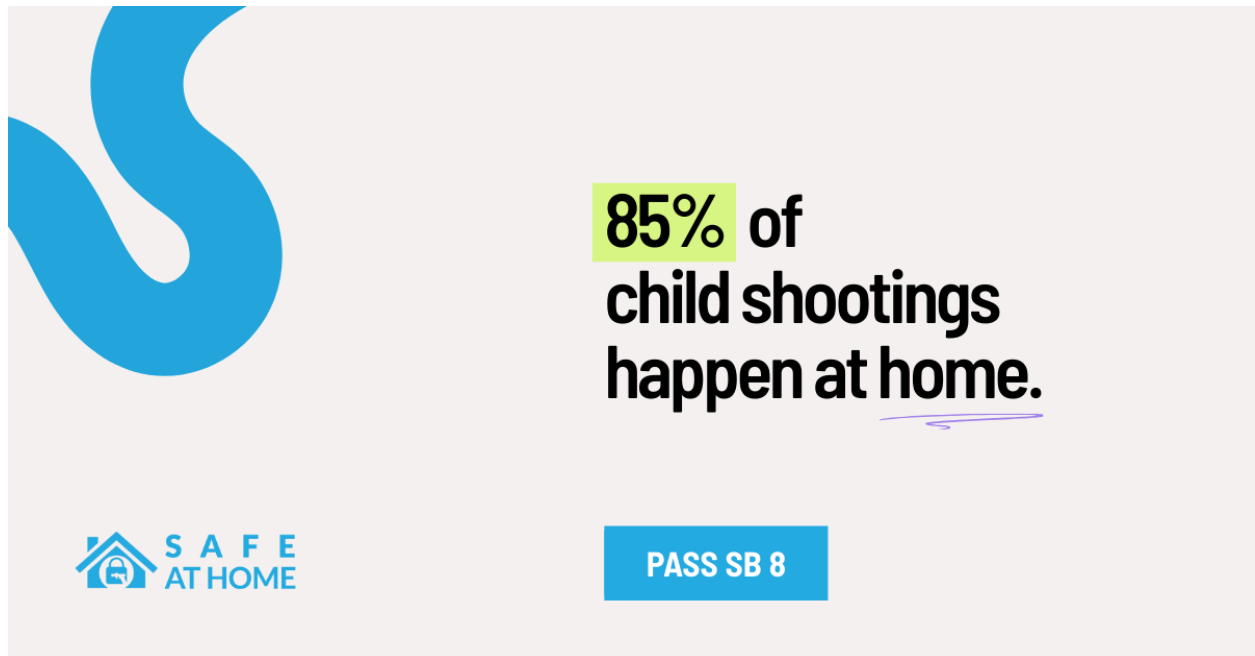
Ask your lawmakers to vote YES on SB 8:

<https://gvpaction.com/act/tell-your-legislators-to-co-sponsor-safe-firearm-storage-act-and-tell-springfield-to-pass-sb-8>

DOWNLOAD GRAPHIC:

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SOCIAL POST 3



Facebook / Instagram:

1 in 3 children in the U.S. live in a home with a gun. And 85% of fatal shootings involving children happen at home.

With so many guns in our country, securely storing them is essential to protecting our children.

Senate Bill 8 (#SafeAtHome) strengthens firearm storage laws to help prevent senseless tragedies and give children a chance to grow up.

Contact your lawmaker — Vote YES on SB 8:
<https://gvpaction.com/act/tell-your-legislators-to-co-sponsor-safe-firearm-storage-act-and-the-lost-and-stolen-firearms-reporting-bill-n/>

Blue Sky / X:

1 in 3 U.S. kids live in a home with a gun. And 85% of child shooting deaths happen at home.

SB 8 (#SafeAtHome) strengthens storage laws so kids can grow up safely.

Contact your lawmaker:
<https://gvpaction.com/act/tell-your-legislators-to-co-sponsor-safe-firearm-storage-act-and-the-lost-and-stolen-firearms-reporting-bill-n/>

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POST 4

“

Safe At Home can protect more children, teens and our most vulnerable residents from accessing deadly weapons and **protect more Illinois families** from the heartbreak of gun violence.”

Eric Rinehart
Lake County State's Attorney

 **PASS SB 8**



Facebook / Instagram:

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart is right: it's time to protect more Illinois families from the heartbreak of gun violence.

Springfield, It's time to act. Let's give our kids, teens, and communities the safety they deserve. Urge lawmakers to PASS SB 8.
#SafeAtHome

<https://gvpaction.com/act/tell-your-legislators-to-co-sponsor-safe-firearm-storage-act-and-tell-your-legislators-to-report-lost-and-stolen-firearms-reporting-bill-n/>

Blue Sky / X:

Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart is calling for action.

Springfield, It's time to act. Let's give our kids, teens, and communities the safety they deserve. Urge lawmakers to PASS SB 8.
#SafeAtHome

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