

Testimony in support of reporting lost and stolen firearms - HB 6901, SB 903, and SB 904.

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My name is Linda West Giesing. I live in New London and am a constitute of Andrea Stillman and Ernest Hewitt . I am speaking to you in support of bills, 903, 904 and 6901, which require the reporting of lost and stolen firearms.

I woke up the morning of May 27, 2006, the mom and step mom of 7 kids. By nightfall that night, two of my children had been murdered. My son, Derek VonWinkle was shot in the neck while sleeping and my step-son, Gregory Giesing was blown out of his wheelchair by a sawed off shotgun. By nightfall of May 27,2006 I was the mom of only 5.

Evil and good collided on May 27, 2006 and evil won. Both the boys were in their own homes when they were shot by an 18 year old with a previous criminal history of making pipe bombs and stealing guns. Somebody somewhere did not get it right when they allowed this evil being the privilege to walk among our children and have access to a murder weapon. and more specifically, a gun.

Where did Ian Cooke get this weapon? How did he get this gun? I don't need to ask **why** because we know he specifically and illegal obtained this shotgun that he altered into a sawed off shotgun to kill two of the most important things in my life. Derek VonWinkle and Gregory Giesing. I wish you had the chance to get to know these special young men. Please, remember their names.

And please vote yes on this bill. This will not keep law abiding citizens from owning a gun, but it will help close a loophole that allows kids and bad guys and the Ian Cookes of the world, easy access to guns. Again, please vote yes on this bill. Help prevent some other mom and dad and sister and brother from walking in my shoes.

Thank you for listening to me and for your attention on this issue that is so very close to my heart.