

January 14, 2026

I was the captain of my public college's rifle team for 3 of the 4 years I participated on the team. We shot .22 caliber long rifles indoors, 50 feet from the targets, in 4 different positions. There were perhaps up to 8 simultaneous shooters on the range at any one time. During that time, I witnessed several 'accidents' on the firing range due to negligence. Even though all participants were trained in safety measures, shooters would 'forget' to open their bolts on a loaded rifle before pulling back from the targets or setting their rifles on the ground or their butt ends. As a result, rounds of live ammunition would be fired into the ceiling, the air, the walls or the ground, sometimes causing shots to ricochet on the range.

These were 18–21-year-old young men and women, safety trained, in a controlled environment, who regularly made mistakes that could have caused harm or death to a teammate or competitor. Consider what might happen when weapons are placed in the hands of inexperienced and/or irresponsible young adults, under pressure in college for any number of reasons. It is irresponsible and reckless for legislators to consider voting for this bill. **PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL.** Otherwise, you are likely to end up with death on your hands.

Susan Wagner  
Durham, NH