



# Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD)

2441 West Grand Boulevard

Detroit, Michigan 48208

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May 13, 2002

To William Mc Murray:  
The Rac Holding Company

My name is Frank Miles Jr. I am the Crisis Response Coordinator for Save Our Sons And Daughters (SOSAD), a Basketball Coach for Detroit City High School, and an elected official in Royal Oak Township. I am writing this letter in support of Mr. William McMurray's invention of a device that will help protect children from firearm-related injury and death.

On October 14, 1993 my son Frank Miles III (15 years old) was shot to death in front of Redford High School as he was walking to go to a football practice. As a result, I became an advocate of non-violence and as a survivor of gun violence, I focused much of my energy against gun-violence. Since then, I have spoken to countless youth and adult groups in schools and communities in metropolitan Detroit regarding gun violence prevention. When talking with youth ages 15 - 18, I find that around 80% of them know if their parents have guns and where they hide it in the house. This makes me believe that its very easy for youth to have access to guns out of curiosity, the temptation to brag, show off, intimidate, or to have an upper hand in daily conflicts that take place in schools and streets. Unfortunately because of accidental discharge and false confidence, this mistake ends up in fatal injury of other children or themselves. Hopeless and depressed youth who would normally survive a suicide attempt, would not get a second chance at life if the method used to end their life is a fire-arm. According to the National Safe Kids Campaign 30% of gun owners leave their firearm unlocked.

I am not in support of having a gun in a house with children nor am I in support of the new concealed weapon's law. However, the guns are out there in homes and streets children frequent and its everyone's responsibility to keep children safe from the dangers of firearms. I agree with the National Safe Kids Campaign when they say, "Nothing outweighs the loss or serious injury of a child. Storing firearms safely and reducing their accessibility are essential steps in protecting our children."

The device that William McMurray has invented keeps a gun locked and secure in the event a child discovers it. The boy that killed my son would not have been able to use the gun he found hidden in his parent's home, if it had a lock that prevented him from using it.

Sincerely,  
*Frank Miles*  
Frank Miles, CRT Coordinator  
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