



PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 25-29 AS SMART WEEK

WHEREAS, guns are the number one killer of children and teens in the United States and almost every single day, a child gets their hands on a gun and unintentionally kills or wounds themselves or someone else in the United States; and

WHEREAS, when guns are not properly stored, tragedy can strike; whether it's a child finding a firearm and wounding or killing themselves or someone else, or someone stealing it and using it to commit crimes in our communities; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the most effective way to prevent children from accessing firearms is by making sure all guns are stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition, however, more than half of gun owners do not lock all of their guns securely, and an estimated 4.6 million children live in a home with at least one unlocked and loaded gun in the United States; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the Board's highest responsibility and the County of Albemarle is committed to creating a safe environment contributing to the safety and well-being of our children; and

WHEREAS, SMART Week raises awareness and promotes efforts to educate the public about secure gun storage and the County of Albemarle commends Be SMART, and all involved in their endeavor to keep communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize August 25-29, 2025, to be SMART Week and encourage all residents, schools, hospitals, and community organizations to commit to the crucial role of reducing injuries and deaths by promoting secure gun storage and safety.

Signed this 20th day of August 2025.

Jim H. Andrews, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors