Dear Editor,

June marks the beginning of summer, and for America’s children, the beginning of summer vacation, where they will be spending much of their time at home or with friends. Unfortunately, every day across America, eight children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed due to an unlocked or unsupervised gun in the home, and these tragedies increase as temperatures rise.

That is why Brady, one of the nation’s oldest and boldest gun violence prevention groups, promotes June 21 as “Asking Saves Kids Day (ASK Day),” when we prioritize our children’s lives and safety by urging all parents and caretakers to ask if there are unlocked guns in the home. Parents ask all sorts of questions before their children visit other homes, including about pets and allergies. ASK Day encourages parents to add one more question: “Is there an unlocked gun in your home?”

Brady is promoting ASK Day to raise awareness about the risks of unsecured guns in the home and to mobilize all people — gun owners and non-gun owners alike — to prevent family fire and ensure that guns are stored properly.

Family fire refers to a shooting caused by someone having access to a gun from the home when they shouldn’t have it. Unintentional shootings, suicide, and intentional shootings are all forms of family fire. Fortunately, family fire is preventable and the solution is safe storage practices.

We all can play a role in protecting the well-being of all children, and ensuring they are safe this summer.