



## NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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### **Trevor W. Santos**

Director,

Government Relations - State Affairs

February 20, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**SENATE BILL 646  
OPPOSE**

### **Re: Senate Bill 646 - Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage Requirements**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and our industry members located throughout the state of Maryland, I write today to express our opposition to Senate Bill 646 ("SB 646"). SB 646 seeks to prohibit access to a firearm by a minor; prohibit a person from storing or leaving a loaded or unloaded firearm in a location where an unsupervised minor could gain access to the firearm and an unsupervised minor does gain access to the firearm; and imposes penalties on those found to have violated the law.

As the trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, the National Shooting Sports Foundation ("NSSF") seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 10,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Maryland sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland.

First and foremost, the National Shooting Sports Foundation supports the legal and responsible use of firearms. There are many minors who are taught the safe and responsible handling of firearms at a young age, and this bill would prevent them from using firearms or even having access to firearms without parental supervision. There are times when a minor would need access to firearms. SB 646 as drafted would prevent a minor's ability to use a firearm for self-defense in an instance where his or her parent or guardian is not home. Additionally, 16- and 17-year olds are currently able to use firearms for hunting in Maryland without parental supervision. This bill would have a detrimental impact on passing on the great tradition of hunting.

It is for these reasons the National Shooting Sports Foundation opposes Senate Bill 646 and we would respectfully request an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Trevor W. Santos