



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 19, 2020

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB636 - Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage Requirements**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 636. This bill would make it illegal to store or leave a loaded or unloaded firearm (pistol, rifle, shotgun) in a place where a minor, meaning anyone under 18, could gain access. If not kept in a safe, somewhere to prohibit unintended persons being able to access the firearm or an external safety lock, an individual could face up to no more than 90 days in jail or a \$1,000 fine, or both. If the unsupervised minor gains access to the firearm, then the owner of the firearm could face up to 2 years in prison, 2,500 fine or both. Finally, if the unsupervised minor uses that firearm harm another person, then the firearm owner is subject to 5 years in prison, \$5,000 in fines or both.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: We believe in and support the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects the right of the people to keep and bear Arms. We oppose any legislation that would further restrict the purchase and ownership by law-abiding citizens of firearms, handgun, long arm, autoloader or manual loader.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 636

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396