

## Written Testimony of Jesse Ferguson, resident of Caroline County, Maryland, in Opposition to HB0636

I am a hard-working husband, father of two young girls, and a native of Maryland's Eastern Shore. I am also an avid hunter, firearms collector, and participant in all manners of competition involving shooting and firearms. I am opposed to HB0636 and urge an unfavorable report from the committee.

The expansion of the definition of a child to include individuals up to the age of 18 does not reflect the reality that many families have instilled in their children a level of responsibility around firearms, and other aspects of life, at an early age. My government has no business telling me what level of responsibility they think my children possess.

The expansion of the current law to include unloaded firearms makes no sense at all. The chemicals under my sink, the knives in my kitchen, and the baseball bat in my hall closet all pose more of a danger than an unloaded firearm. Can I look forward to future bills being written to address these other dangers in my home?

The vagueness of the bills language by modifying the language to be based on what "could" happen is overly broad.

The increased penalties proposed in this bill are repugnant.

The very spirit of this bill flies in the face of the common reason that people keep firearms in their home: self defense.

Again, I urge an unfavorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ferguson

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