

In OPPOSITION to HB636 (SB646)
Access to Firearms

I am opposed to this Bill because it exposes me to two major risks.

Risk A- Death. As a firearm owner, with no children in the house or visiting; I keep an unloaded shotgun on a high shelf in my bedroom closet. Over my medicine cabinet I keep some shotgun shells. This medicine cabinet has no counter under it to climb on. If an attacker enters, I can grab the shotgun, retreat to the bathroom, lock the door, then load the shotgun for defense.

This unloaded gun is flat on a shelf and invisible to anyone under 6 ½ feet tall- yet instantly accessible in an emergency. No safe is this fast. This provides both safety and ready access for self-defense.

Following the proposed bill would slow down my access to a lifesaving device in the most critical seconds; likely resulting in my death from an attack.

Risk B- Arrest due to the vague word "COULD". I could store my unloaded long guns in the attic, accessible via a pull down rope which anyone 6 ft tall could reach. This is an uninhabited storage area with a 3x10 ft floored area. It is highly unlikely a minor, none of whom are living in or visiting my house, will find the box- it COULD happen.

I could have some long guns stored in a simple wooden box with a padlock, facing the wall in the back corner of my closet behind my clothes. It's unlikely a minor would find the box and while pulling it out drop the box and it break open- it COULD happen.

Many guns stored in plastic cases protected by a padlock. The plastic can easily be cut or pried open. This would be very unusual, yet it COULD happen.

If a manufacturer develops a biometric or other such inactivating device, it would not meet the requirements in the Bill. Such devices are under development.

The Bill would make the above storage IN MY PRIVATE HOME a criminal act.

Respectfully;
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Resident of Frederick County, MD

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