

SB0676/HB659

Jesse Picard

Position: **Opposed**

These bills would place an unreasonable burden on gun owners. Something as simple as using the statement, “reasonably *should* have known” as these bills do, would criminalize the *possibility* of unauthorized access by a minor. This is extreme because there’s the implication that a gun owner must be able to anticipate *all* possibilities of unauthorized access by a minor. That is an impossible standard by any reasonable measure. The requirements proposed would make criminal any gun owner who is responsible and otherwise law abiding who chooses to store a loaded firearm to be accessed for immediate self-defense. For many, the purpose of a firearm in the home *is* self-defense, but these bills would require that firearms be effectively inaccessible and/or inoperable. This defeats the purpose of storage for immediate self-defense and in fact was one of the requirements which was struck down by *Heller*.

What’s more is the “secure location” requirement for ammunition which these bills fail to define. Whether the secure location is a locked safe, simply locked inside the home in an unlocked cabinet, or sitting in plain view on a table within a room which a child is not likely to enter is not clear.

These bills are vague at best in defining acceptable storage practices and carries the potential to expose individuals to unnecessary legal risk through arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement.

I urge an unfavorable report on this extreme bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Picard