

335 Silky Oak Ct
Linthicum Hts, MD 21090
February 20, 2023

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 858 (Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law))

To: Senator Smith

As a US military veteran and Maryland Resident, I **oppose** Senate Bill 858 (Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law))

A home resident should be able to protect themselves when an urgent and dangerous situation occurs, such as someone smashing through their door or window. The resident should be able to react immediately and quickly. The resident should not have to go to multiple locations to obtain their locked firearms and ammunition to be able to defend themselves.

I agree that firearms and ammunition should be stored in a secure location. However, I feel that a firearm should be able to be loaded with ammunition when securely stored. I do not believe that firearms and ammunition need to be stored in two different secured locations. Storing unloaded firearms or storing them in two different locations would require additional time to retrieve both the firearm, ammunition, and load the firearm in a life-threatening situation. This type of situation could end tragically for the home resident.

Additionally, I do not believe this bill should be considered until the Youth Suicide Prevention and Firearm Safe Storage Guide is developed by the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services that is currently targeted to occur on or before January 1, 2024.

I request the Committee take no further action and abandon Senate Bill 858.

Sincerely,

Charles Watkins

dr.watkins@yahoo.com