

Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to SB858
“Firearms Safety—Storage Requirements”

Safe storage is indeed every firearms owners responsibility. I think my family and I do a very good job of keeping our firearms secured, although I do not know how we can comply with this law. We are competition shooters and involved in firearms training. Because we go through a lot of ammunition, we buy it in bulk for cost savings. Keeping that volume locked up just would not be feasible.

We unfortunately do not have children of our own, however our (just barely) minor niece may visit and house sit occasionally. It would seem that leaving her alone in the house would violate (C)(1) if there was any ammunition available, regardless of whether she even knew it. The violations would get even worse if she had to defend herself. This would seem to apply when she is at her own home, babysitting her younger sister as well, where she should also be able to protect herself and her family.

Though not 18, she is legally old enough to babysit. If she successfully stopped a home invasion with a firearm, protecting herself and her sister from potentially unspeakable harm, now her father would go to jail and become a prohibited person himself? **There needs to be some allowance for the civil right of self defense.**

This law is invasive into the sanctity of our home, which is repugnant enough, but it also creates crime where there is no victim other than (C)(3). How would any violation of (C)(1) or (C)(2) even be enforced? If a violation of (C)(3) resulted in suicide, don't you think the loss of their child is punishment enough? That family would be emotionally destroyed already. Taking away another family member to jail for three years just seems vindictive.

Are there any comparable regulations on the storage of alcohol, tobacco, or keys to motor vehicles? There should be. I have seen access to improperly stored alcohol by minors end or ruin exponentially more lives than firearms.

I ask for an unfavorable report (or include alcohol as requiring proper storage and a safe defense clause for the firearms).

Thank you,
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