



Volunteer Testimony

HB 636- SUPPORT

Child Access Prevention Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage Requirements

Peter Benjamin

House Judiciary

February 19, 2020

Dear Mr. Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am Peter Benjamin and I live in the Town of Garrett Park, in District 18. I am a former mayor of the town, and I am happy to say that we are most pleased that Delegate Shetty, a member of this committee, represents us in this august body. I am here as a member of Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence and as a member of the Prevent Gun Violence Ministry of the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

We are all shocked and distressed when we hear that a child has obtained access to a firearm belonging to an adult in the household, and without any malice or intent to harm has shot a friend or sometimes the child itself. The deaths and injuries resulting from such situations are not the responsibility of the child, but of the adult owner of the firearm. I fully support HB 636 in its attempt to encourage adults to store firearms safely and to prevent child access in order to reduce these occurrences.