

From:

David Harman  
8261 Londonderry Ct  
Laurel, MD 20707

## Letter written in Opposition to Senate Bill 479

I would like to express my opposition to Senate Bill 479 and provide reasoning for said opposition. While I appreciate the intention of this amended version of Criminal Law Section 4-104 is intended to protect children, the possible interpretations that could be argued in court open a law-abiding citizen to undue liability and responsibility for the actions of others. Ownership of a firearm is a right and with that right comes a responsibility to safely transport, handle, use, and to some extent store said firearm. If someone steals my car and damages property, injures or kills someone, I am not liable for their actions through the use of my stolen property. The thief is liable and should be held accountable for their actions. If someone steals a firearm, they have committed a crime and if further crimes are committed using that firearm, then once again the thief and/or the subsequent party taking possession and using the firearm in the commission of a crime should be held accountable for their actions. While it is advisable for parents to store firearms safely from their children, it is also advisable for them to take the time to educate the child on the safely handling a firearm and setting the terms of the child's access to said firearm. As an adult without children, access to firearms is primarily dictated by home defense and the storage is aimed at keeping said firearm from an intruder to be stolen and/or used on my family. If someone with small children is visiting my home, while I would endeavor to remove dangerous objects from their access, it is ultimately the parent's responsibility to monitor their child's activities and more importantly instill in them the understanding that they should not touch the property of others without their permission and to reinforce that notion as the child grows to make them into a responsible adult. I do not leave visible items of value in my car while parked in a publicly accessible area to avoid tempting someone to steal them, but access to my valuables does not absolve the thief from his crime.

Respectfully,

David Harman

