

## Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to SB0479

Proper storage is a fundamental of responsible firearm ownership. I certainly have done, and always will do my best to store my firearms securely. The standards set by this bill, however, make compliance impossible because it is based on what a minor “could” do.

As an upcoming metalworker, when I was sixteen years old, I am sure that I had the tools and abilities to break into any of the gun safes I own now. (I was raised to be responsible with firearms and respectful of other people’s property, so I certainly would not break into a safe...but I am sure that I **could**). That was over twenty five years ago, before cordless grinders and instructions on the internet were readily available. A sixteen year old me today would be even more capable. Is that the standard against which we have to fortify our firearm/ammunition storage?

Even the elaborate borelocks (such as the Omega brand), which are required by existing law to be included with handgun purchases in Maryland do not meet the criteria of rendering a firearm “inoperable to anyone other than an adult.” A quick tutorial of the LockPickingLawyer channel on Youtube shows how easily these locks (as well as a myriad of other gun locks and safes) can be easily defeated with common household items.

I am also very concerned with how this law will be enforced, specifically section (c) (1), where a (now) illegally stored firearm has not even been accessed. Will this require an inspection of my house and bedroom safes to ensure compliance? I do not allow unsupervised minors in my house. That, and the lock on my door, should be enough.

Certainly, there should be some sort of liability attached to grossly negligent firearm storage that leads to crimes being committed by others. This bill, however, is just too intrusive and impossible to follow.

Thank you,  
Art Novotny  
District 7