

SB0479/HB200 Testimony

These bills would place an unreasonable burden on gun owners. Something as simple as using the word “could” as this bill does it would criminalize the *possibility* of unauthorized access by a minor of an *unloaded* firearm. This is extreme because an unloaded firearm poses no greater threat to life than a rock, and certainly less of a threat than a kitchen knife. There’s also the implication that a gun owner must be able to anticipate all possibilities of unauthorized access by a minor. That is an impossible standard by any reasonable measure. The requirements proposed would make criminal any gun owner who is responsible and otherwise law abiding who chooses to store a loaded firearm to be accessed for immediate self-defense. For many, the purpose of a firearm in the home *is* for self-defense, but these bills would require that firearms be effectively inaccessible and/or inoperable. This defeats the purpose of storage for immediate self-defense and in fact was one of the requirements which was struck down by *Heller*. These bills are vague at best in defining acceptable storage practices and carry the potential to expose individuals to unnecessary legal risk through arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement.

I urge an unfavorable report for these extreme bills.

Sincerely,

Jesse Picard