

Dear Senators of the Maryland General Assembly,

I strongly urge you to vote unfavorable to SB479, Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage Requirements. SB479 is intentionally worded with vague language that will be up to interpretation by law enforcement. How would law enforcement even enforce such a law any time before or during a minor “illegally” gaining access to a firearm? At what clearly defined point does a gun owner know a minor “could”, or could not gain access to their firearms? Is there a specific amount of money (\$200, \$2,000, \$20,000), time (10 minutes/hours/days to break into a safe), or level of effort required by gunowners to render their firearms “inoperable” and effectively prevent minors from “gain(ing) access”? My fear is that the law will require excessive “safety” features that would be excessively expensive or difficult to attain for most gun owners.

I write to you not just out of concern for gunowners such as myself, but also new gun users/owners. I worry for youth who currently have legal access to firearms, as SB479 would practically eliminate a minor’s access to ammunition for the purposes of hunting, as well as their ability to defend their home. And perhaps even more egregious is that without any transparency into how the law will be enforced, people who are poor or disadvantaged, often those who are people of color, could not possibly afford adequate protection of their firearms against **all** minors who **could** gain access.

Senators, I urge you to vote unfavorably on this bill. This bill does not seem to offer a clear solution to a specific problem it would prevent, the language of the bill is arbitrary and would not be fairly or equally enforced, and ultimately myself and most Marylanders will simply not be able or willing to obey this bill if written into law.

Thank you,

Nicholas DeTello

District 1 – Finksburg, MD