

My name is Andrea LeWinter and I live in Maryland District 13.

I support passage of SB479/HB200, "Jaelynn's Law." This law is critical and necessary to strengthen safe storage of guns to reduce the opportunity for children to get access to firearms.

Unsecured firearms greatly increase the risk of unintentional shootings, homicide, and suicide; for children, this can mean accidental shootings, self-harm, and school shootings. Children are at an age where they cannot fully understand the consequences of their actions and should not be placed at risk due to an adult's careless failure to safely secure a firearm.

By increasing the age of unsupervised firearm possession to 18 years of age, the bill will promote that adults must remain responsible and vigilant in securing guns in order to protect all children, not just the youngest. The bill provides for a graduated system of penalties commensurate with the harm caused by a failure to securely store a weapon, so that the focus can remain remedial and punishment will be equitable.

I hope you will vote to support SB479/HB200.