

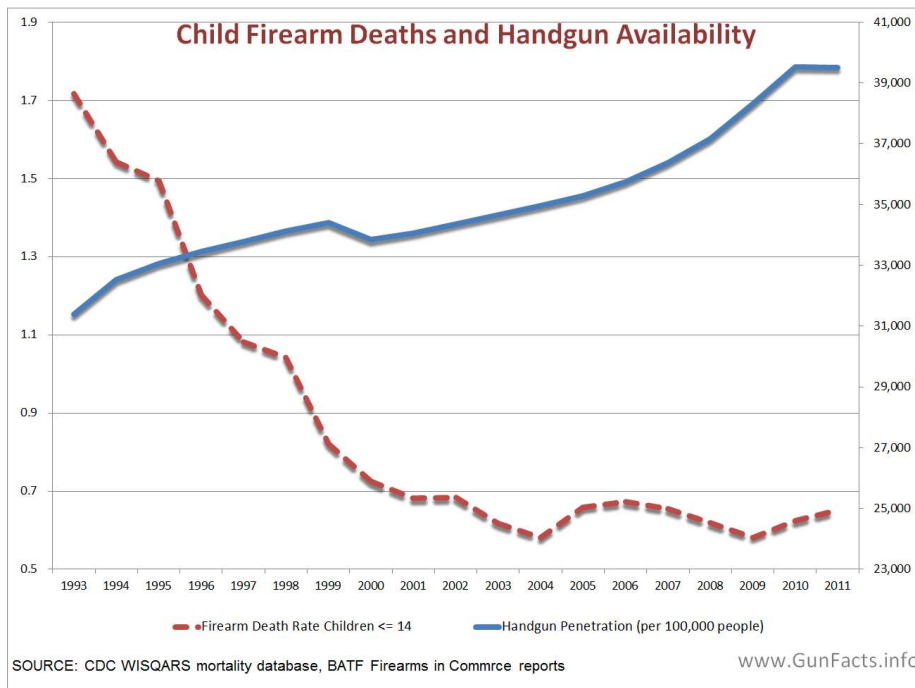
February 25, 2021

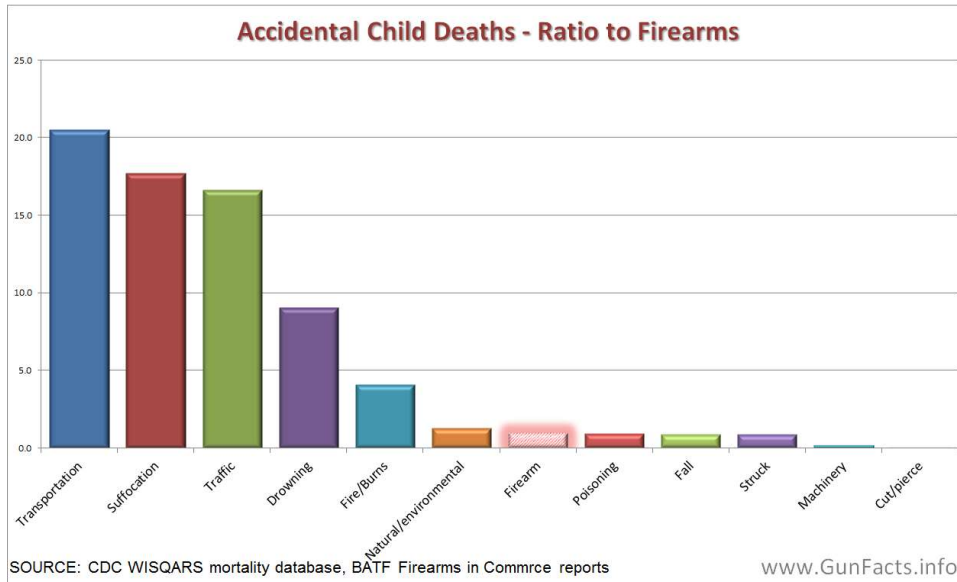
Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing you this morning to urge you to oppose strongly oppose House Bill 200 (HB200). As a competitive shooter, avid hunter, and father of two small children this bill greatly concerns me. It places an impossible to meet standard upon me as a gun owner to ensure that my children, their friends, or anyone else under the age of 18 could under no circumstances gain access to my firearms. My eight year old is intelligent enough to understand that given enough time and tools she *could* access firearms that are locked in a gun safe. She *could* find means to access a firearm that is being carried in a locked case in a vehicle on the way to hunt ducks. Clearly there is no end to the possibilities a prosecutor could use to trap a well meaning gun owner into a violation.

This law is clearly unenforceable unless the state proposed to inspect the firearms of each citizen, certify that safe storage is taking place, and buy into the belief that a firearm never leaves a gun safe for use. If such an invasion of privacy is the intent of this law, perhaps one would be wise to read the bill of rights.

Further, I urge you to demonstrate to your constituents what research shows that the onerous restrictions of this bill reduce firearms mishaps. For your edification I'd include two graphs that should explain all the facts.





Rather than trying to palliate your constituents into believing you are ‘doing something’ about gun violence, I’d encourage you to tackle issues that are important to a wider swath of Maryland – lowering taxes, making business easier, improving access to a COVID vaccine.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

David Benson

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