

Feb. 25, 2021

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice-chair Atterbeary, and members of The Judiciary Committee,

I live at 104 Lockleven Drive, Severna Park and I'm writing in support of Jaelynn's Law (House Bill 200).

My husband and I have a 19-year-old son and 14 year-old-daughter. The stories of Jaelynn – and other teens and children shot by other teens and children – are heartbreaking. As are unintentional shootings. And suicides by gun. And some of them would be preventable with the passage of this bill. The statistics are chilling:

- Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in Maryland.
- From 2014-2018, 111 children under the age of 18 were killed with a gun in Maryland.
- 30.6% of gun deaths of children under 18 in Maryland are from suicide or other non-homicide events.
- In the US, 4.6 million minors live in homes with at least one loaded and unsecured firearm. Child access prevention laws can help prevent unintentional shootings and gun suicides.

This bill *will* help reduce unintentional shootings and suicides. If even one life is saved, then it is worth it. I hope you would agree.

Thank you for your support,
Meredith Gray