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In Opposition To HB0200

I write this in opposition to HB0200 for several reasons, and will attempt to articulate them here. This bill is intended to improve public safety and places requirements on individuals to store firearms in a particular manner.

First the wording of this bill is vague enough that it cannot be complied with. For example the bill requires that even unloaded firearms be stored in such a way that a "child", which by this bill's terms is anyone under 16, COULD not gain access to said firearm. This is impossible as no matter how difficult the owner of a firearm makes it to get to said item the possibility that a minor COULD get to it exists. This bill would make it possible to incriminate otherwise law abiding citizens for simply owning a firearm.

Second the bill is intended to improve public safety. I believe this bill does not improve public safety in any meaningful way, as with anything from pesticide to household cleaners no amount of legal restriction will ever beat education and the understanding of potential consequence for misuse of a potentially hazardous item. If you want to improve public safety for children then I would propose incorporating firearms safety into the public education system, as I believe a child who knows why they should not do something is less likely to find out the hard way, regardless of what that something is. For example you don't keep tide pods in a safe, you put warning labels on them.

In summary I believe this bill to be a needless burden on law abiding citizens, and a detraction from the only feasible solution to firearms handling, education. For these reasons I ask that you reject this bill. Thank you for your time.