

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

I live in Ellicott City, District 9B, and I'm writing in support of Jaelynn's Law (House Bill 200). This bill will help reduce unintentional shootings and suicides. Additionally,

- Child access prevention laws help ensure responsible firearms storage by holding adults accountable when kids gain access to their guns. States that have these laws have seen reductions in youth suicides and unintentional injuries.
- Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children in Maryland.
- Raising the minimum age for unsupervised access to a firearm helps protect young people until their brains are more fully developed.
- Suicides and unintentional shootings make up almost 40% of Maryland's gun related deaths.

We need to strengthen safe storage requirements for gun owners to keep more children in Maryland safe from harming themselves or others.

Thank you.

Nicole Berger