

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
101 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

HOUSE BILL 200
OPPOSE

Re: House Bill 200 - Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage Requirements (Jaelynn's Law)

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and our industry members located throughout the state of Maryland, I submit these comments in opposition to House Bill 200 ("HB 200"). HB 200 seeks to prohibit access to a firearm by a minor; prohibit a person from storing or leaving a loaded or unloaded firearm in a location where an unsupervised minor could gain access to the firearm and an unsupervised minor does gain access to the firearm; and imposes penalties on those found to have violated the law.

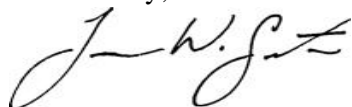
As the trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, the National Shooting Sports Foundation ("NSSF") seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 9,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and outdoor media publishers. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Maryland sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland.

First and foremost, NSSF supports the legal and responsible use of firearms. There are many minors who are taught the safe and responsible handling of firearms at a young age, and this bill would prevent them from using firearms or even having access to firearms without parental supervision, unless they have a certificate of firearm and hunter safety issued by the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR"). Other firearm safety training options exist outside of the curriculum being taught by DNR and those should be considered for inclusion in HB 200.

Additionally, there are times when a minor would need access to firearms and not just long guns such as rifles and shotguns, but even handguns. As drafted, HB 200 would prohibit a minor from using a firearm for self-defense unless there is someone older than 18 years old supervising them during their use of the firearm.

It is for these reasons the National Shooting Sports Foundation opposes House Bill 200 and we would respectfully request an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,



Trevor W. Santos