

March 1, 2021

Dr. Jeffrey S. Rubin
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 200

**Public Safety – Access to Firearms – Storage Requirements
(Jaelynn’s Law)**

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Dr. Jeffrey Rubin

My name is Dr. Jeffrey Rubin and I am a resident of Potomac, in District 15. I provide this testimony in strong support of HB 200.

HB 200 would decrease the risk of harm and possibly death resulting from unintended access of minors to firearms in the home. Sadly, such access has been a source of harm through accident or suicide, as reported in the media and documented by the Centers for Disease Control. While clearly defining a few specific circumstances when the prohibitions or penalties described in the bill would not apply, it specifies a series of graduated penalties that would be imposed if an individual did not properly store a firearm and ammunition in a manner as to prevent access to them by an individual at least 18 years old. In so doing, it provides a measure of accountability for those who fail to obey this common sense rule.

Inherent to the possession of firearms is a responsibility to ensure that they are stored safely. Experience has shown that tragic events happen when firearms in homes are not properly safeguarded from minors. Because HB 200 would reinforce this responsibility by holding the owners of firearms accountable, **I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.**