

## HB0200 Oppose

Good Afternoon Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Let me begin by saying that every child is precious, my deepest sympathies go to anyone who has lost a child regardless of the cause of their loss. My words are not meant to cause further pain to anyone suffering such a loss. I say suffering because the pain of losing a child never goes away. My family has known such pain 3 times over. An accidental drowning, a horrific car accident and a suicide by gun shot. I must tell you that this legislation would not have prevented this last tragedy from occurring. No legislation could have.

I am the oldest child of a family with five other siblings. I am also a mother and grandmother. We are the grandchildren, children, nieces and nephews of a family who has served our country both in the military and in law enforcement.

We are a family of archers, hunters and fisherman. We are also of 1st American Decent. We were raised knowing the purpose and proper use of all types of weaponry including firearms such as handguns, rifles, shotguns. We began learning life skills at a very young age. I was proficient with a bb-gun at the age of four. I never "shot my eye out" or harmed one of my cousins or siblings. Nor was I harmed by any of them. One of the most important lessons we learned is responsibility for the safe handling, operation, cleaning and storage of our possessions. I knew and practised all of these lessons long before becoming an adult.

I oppose this legislation because it imperils every citizen in the State of Maryland by mandating unreasonable storage requirements for legally and privately owned possessions. This bill inhibits and prohibits families from teaching and instilling cultural knowledge and values to our youth.

We should be educating our children not legislating against their parents.

Thank you for reading my testimony and I urge you to respond with an Unfavorable Report.

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