

Please **OPPOSE** HB659

Public Safety – Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)

As a coach for the Meade Rile and Pistol Club Youth Scholastic Action Shooting Program competition team<sup>[1]</sup> I oppose this bill. We have had teens who are less than 18 years old who can use family ranges for individual training. There is also a great deal of training that can be done with timers and laser training devices without using live ammunition; however, the athlete still needs access to the firearm. This is a sport where tenths, and sometimes hundredths of a second can mean the difference between winning and loosing. We have had young ladies place in the top 5 best shooters in their age category and we intend to do even better at the national competitions this Summer. Yes, I see the hunter safety certificate provision for the minor but, my family does not hunt and won't kill wild animals so that is not an option.

I grew up in Scranton, PA on the other side of town from President Biden's family home. Back then, as a teenager of just 13 or 14 years old, my friends would go shooting in the woods near my house. In the late 70s it was common to see a young kid walking the street toward the woods safely and properly carrying a firearm and no one, absolutely no one voiced any panicked concerns. A friend of mine tells the story of his small Utah town being swarmed by unaccompanied pre-teens carrying firearms once a year for the annual regional hunter safety training. Parents know and trust the children they have properly raised both then and now.

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[1] <https://mysasp.com/>