



Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill: House Bill 659 – Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)

Date: February 20, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care supports *House Bill 659 – Maryland Medical Assistance – Adult Dental Coverage*. The bill seeks to improve children safety and reduce youth suicide by requiring firearms be stored in ways to prevent unsupervised access.

Nationwide, we have repeatedly seen school shooting incidents involving a child using a parent’s unsecured firearm. Additionally, there is a plethora of research that show that a firearm in the home increases a child suicide risk. Because of these risks, it is imperative that firearm owners store their firearms and ammunition in a way that prevents access by all children not just children under the age of 16 as is required by current law. This requirement aligns with the best practices that the vast majority of firearm owners follow. The *Youth Suicide Prevention and Firearm Safe Storage Guide* created by this bill is also essential in that it ensures that providers are prepared to discuss the importance of safe firearm storage with families.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net.