



TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB659-Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)

Position: Favorable

By: Nancy Soreng, President

Date: February 23, 2022

The League of Women Voters Maryland urges a **favorable** report on **House Bill 659** which would require firearms to be properly and safely stored away from any minors. It would also prohibit anyone from leaving a firearm in a location where a minor could easily gain access to the firearm. In addition, this bill would outline a youth suicide prevention and firearm storage “guide”.

Locking away firearms and storing them safely has the potential to save lives. LWWUS supports gun policy that advocates for child safety locks on guns. Safe storage laws like HB 659 can help to promote more responsible gun owners and help to ensure safety of minors and everyone else. Establishing guidelines for gun storage will provide instructions for people who may not know the proper and most effective way to store their firearms and ammunition.

The ease at which a firearm can be accessed can be a very dangerous situation for anyone but especially those who have suicidal thoughts. Minimizing those who have access to guns by locking them up properly can help to reduce the number of suicides by guns. This is a commonsense gun law that could help save the lives of many and for these reasons **we support the passage of House Bill 659.**