

Members of the House Committee on Public Safety,

I vehemently oppose the proposed firearms storage legislation. While the objective of bolstering public safety is admirable, the bill's current form presents serious concerns that must be addressed.

The legislation's insistence on universal firearm storage units and locking devices, even within one's home, poses significant challenges for law-abiding firearm owners. Such measures risk impeding timely access to firearms for self-defense purposes, potentially endangering individuals, and their families.

Moreover, the proposed penalties for non-compliance are unduly harsh and could unfairly penalize responsible gun owners for minor oversights. This approach risks criminalizing inadvertent errors in storage practices and creating unnecessary friction between law enforcement and law-abiding citizens.

Instead of imposing additional regulations, I urge a focus on enforcing existing laws against actual crimes committed with firearms and fostering a culture of responsible firearm ownership. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms and investing in educational initiatives would be more effective in reducing gun violence and promoting safe storage practices without unfairly burdening honest, responsible, gun owners.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider this legislation and pursue alternative strategies that prioritize community safety while respecting the rights of firearm owners.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
James Woodson
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