

Senators,

I'm writing you to express my opposition to SB978. I oppose both the manner in which this bill is being pushed through and the troubling content of the bill.

One of the greatest virtues of our society is participatory government. How wonderfully egalitarian it is to live in a place where everyone has an opportunity to be heard, in which meaningful issues are discussed, and thoughtful action is taken. The "gut and stuff" process being used to introduce and rush this bill is an absolute affront to a process that should be held sacred. Complicated problems demand careful consideration and the opportunity for all involved to participate.

Safe firearms storage is in everyone's interest but many of the provisions of this bill go too far. Instead of encouraging safe and responsible behavior this bill serves as deterrent to firearms ownership.

When a young man reaches the age of 18 we require him to sign up for selective service, and potentially take up arms in our defense. It is unconscionable that we would require this of our young men while at the same time allowing them to be discriminated against when it comes to their defense of themselves. This is legalized discrimination.

Individual ownership of firearms is a fundamental part of the system of checks and balances we rely on to prevent a consolidation of power, and the resulting abuse of said power. Regardless of intentions, restricting access to firearms for the law abiding takes power away from "we the people".

Sincerely,

Robert Hardesty