

Dear Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to urge you to support HB 4005. The bill is a common sense measure that will help prevent gun deaths and suicides by people who are not gun owners.

Keeping guns locked up does not infringe on gun ownership but does help protect against access to guns by people who would use them unwisely.

And merely telling people to lock up guns isn't enough. By placing blame on those gun owners who fail to keep their guns locked up when the guns are later used in crimes, gun owners will be sure to follow the law as intended.

One beneficiary of HB 4005 will be the veterans considering suicide who will be thwarted by its policy. As noted in a recent report on the VA's annual report on suicide by veterans (<https://allthatsinteresting.com/veteran-suicide>), since 2008, more than 60,000 U.S. veterans have taken their own lives, with more than half of those deaths via firearms. That means more U.S. Veterans have committed suicide in the last decade than died in the Vietnam War. HB 4005 can have a big impact on those disturbing numbers.

HB 4005 is consistent with the policy and practice of the Silverton Police Department, where Representative Lewis was Chief. According to the current Chief of Police, Silverton's officers are required to secure their duty weapon in a safe manner when not working. The Department usually reminds officers of this requirement once a year at one of the department's in-service training classes. The current Chief believes most of the officers keep the weapons in personally owned gun safes at their homes. He further noted to me that some officers have other personally owned off-duty weapons they use going to and from work and leave their duty weapon secured in their assigned locker in the police department. For Silverton Police Department-owned rifles or pistols they are secured inside the police department in a gun locker, or kept in the vehicle rifle rack which also has a lock system on it. If the police can be required to lock their guns, other gun owners can and should be required.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4005.

Chuck

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