

Written Testimony for House Bill 2505 - Gun Storage Law

HB 2505 requires firearms, even self defense firearms to be locked up. Under this bill citizens can be prosecuted even if they locked up their guns with a trigger lock or a cable lock if someone has "access" to a device that defeats the lock. Which of course, anyone who has access to almost any tool can gain entry. No device, safe, cable lock, trigger lock or lockbox is criminal proof. In addition, HB 2505 allows for civil liability even if gun owners locked up their firearm(s) but a thief was able to break into the safe, lockbox, or cut the cable lock. To pass a law that prosecutes law abiding citizens is irresponsible. Yet, this bill does not address penalties for criminals who steal firearms. Why is that? Because our representatives are more interested in turning law abiding citizens into criminals instead of penalizing the real criminals.

Making gun owners "strictly liable" for crimes committed with guns that were stolen from them is insane under any circumstances! To penalize gun owners who were victim of a robbery is like "shaming a rape survivor".

Furthermore, it's a complete miscarriage of justice to charged citizens with crimes because they were robbed. What is unacceptable is this bill will result in people who are assaulted or killed because they were required to keep their self defense tools locked up and useless.

It must be pointed out this bill makes many claims most are driven by emotion. Laws must NOT BE PASSED based on emotions rather they must be based on hard data. What we do know for a fact is the vast majority of mass shootings (~98%) took place in gun free zones*. Killers continue to target locations where guns are not allowed. Again, NINETY-EIGHT PERCENT (98%) of public mass shootings in this country occur in gun-free zones. Yet, another bill, SB 554 proposes to dramatically increase the number of gun free zones.

Lastly to hold gun owners responsible for two years for guns they "transferred [sold]" unless they could prove the transferred firearm had a trigger lock or cable lock turns our legal system on its head by making a citizen guilty until they somehow prove themselves innocent. And just how do they prove themselves innocent? Additional under this law even if the seller "transferred" the firearm with a cable lock or trigger lock installed the seller must provide the key to such devices in order for the new owner to use the firearm for legal use. Under this law if this new owner who passed a background check does the unthinkable and harms someone with the firearm under HB 2505 the seller would be held "strictly liable" for crimes committed with gun. Does that sound sane to anyone? This bill is emotion driven.

To memorialize Cindy Ann Yuille and Steven Forsyth by turning thousands of legal gun owners into criminals is unconscionable.

For the reasons stated above whether you are for or against gun rights I urge everyone on the House Committee On Judiciary to vote against HB 2505..

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