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Bill 7373: Safe storage

Opposed

I'm writing this testimony because I greatly oppose this bill. To start this bill does not include exemptions for those who live alone, Have no children, And have no one around them that might try to access firearms.

Point number 1: Regarding children/teens accessing firearms. If a child or teenager desperately wants to access a firearm, They will do so in any way they can. For example, When I was 17 years old, I knew my father had firearms in the house. He kept them locked away at all times, In safes both digital, keyed, and biometric, sometimes in locked carry containers, but never just out in the open, or lying around easily accessible. One day, I got extremely upset with him and my first thought, was, maybe he'll understand if he was to lose his precious firearms. So I searched, I spent weeks looking for ways to access them, and I found ways, I guessed combinations, Found keys. the biometric safes were the easiest because they have fail safes in the event that the double A batteries that power digital and biometric safes fail but I'll get to that in another point. After finally finding a way to access these firearms, I took them and hid them, Made it look as if nothing had changed, It took him weeks to realize what had happened, Even had to call the police on me and force me to come home to give them back. Fast forward months later, Combinations, Keys, Everything was changed, I did it again, and again, and again. Point is, safe storage does not work, Children and teens are resourceful. You can't stop a suicide or a crime by focusing on the how, you have to focus on the why, The mental illnesses, The criminal aspirations.

Second point. I mention before: Digital and Biometric safes are absolutely horrible, Combination locks as well in stressful situations where you have mere seconds to defend yourself. Biometric safes and digital safes run on simple double A batteries that you can buy anywhere, When those batteries fail, the safes are inoperable except by a key.

So let's say, Intruder breaks in, Great, gotta get your firearm to defend yourself if needed because the police won't be there for at the very least 4-5 minutes. But the batteries on your nightstand biometric safe died, well now you gotta look for the key, put it in, turn and open the safe, that adds seconds if not minutes to the process, Same result with normal combination or digital lock safes, It takes time that a person doesn't have in these situations.

This bill will not work at stopping anything from happening, There are other means of causing harm, other means of suicide. You need to focus on the Why these things are happening, Not the how they are doing it. And teaching children the safe practices of gun safety is top priority.

Little jimmy down the block might not kill himself or shoot someone if he's taught that guns are not to be played with.