

Roberta DiMezza

From: Chris Morin <cmorin543@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 11:28 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 7373

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Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation H 7373, concerning the regulation of firearm storage and the imposition of penalties for violations. As a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard and a concerned citizen, I have dedicated a portion of my life to the safety and security of our state and nation. This legislation, however, I believe, poses significant threats to our freedoms and privacy without effectively addressing the root causes of gun violence.

The act's emphasis on secure storage, including civil and criminal penalties for violations, oversteps personal freedoms and infringes on the rights of law-abiding gun owners. The requirement for firearms to be secured in locked containers or equipped with tamper-resistant locks at all times when not in use is an impractical measure that could delay or prevent individuals from defending their homes and loved ones in emergencies.

Furthermore, the legislation mandates the posting of informational signs at firearm sales points, highlighting the risks associated with firearm access. This approach seems to vilify gun ownership rather than promote responsible use and storage. It is important to educate and encourage responsible behavior without casting a shadow over the constitutional right to own and bear arms.

Additionally, the act's provisions for penalties, including fines and imprisonment for storage violations, could have unintended consequences on individuals and families already suffering from accidents involving firearms. Such punitive measures may not only exacerbate the trauma experienced by these individuals but also divert attention and resources away from more effective means of preventing gun violence, such as education, mental health support, and community outreach programs.

In conclusion, while I share the concerns regarding firearm safety and the desire to reduce gun violence, I firmly believe that H 7373 is not the right approach. I urge you to reconsider the implications of this legislation and to seek solutions that respect the rights of gun owners, promote genuine safety, and address the complex factors contributing to gun violence.

Very Respectfully,

Christopher Morin
Coventry, RI
Firearms Policy Coalition Member
