

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

March 22, 2023

House Judiciary Committee
124 N Capitol Ave, Room 521
Lansing, MI 48933

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the members of the National Rifle Association in Michigan, I am writing to urge you to oppose Senate Bills 79-80 and House Bills 4139 and 4144. The NRA believes that law abiding gun owners should not have their constitutional right of self-defense impeded by unreasonable storage requirements.

This legislation seek to turn law abiding gun owners into felons for not storing a firearm in a locked box or container or unloaded and separate from the ammunition, when the firearm is not in physical control of the owner. It is not the role of the government to dictate how an individual stores their privately owned firearms on their privately owned property.

When one needs a firearm for self-defense purposes, it is necessary that the firearm be available. Having to first disengage a locking device and then locate the ammunition in a separate storage area is unreasonable and ineffective.

Another concern with this legislation is how it will disincentivize the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. Individuals who may not have complied with the storage requirements of this law will be hesitant to report themselves to the authorities for fear of prosecution. This will create a new set of issues for law enforcement officers working to track down lost and stolen guns in the course of their duties if their databases are not complete with the serial numbers of firearms that have been reported lost or stolen.

Michigan law already addresses careless, reckless or negligent conduct leading to the discharge or killing of a person with a firearm. In the same vein, Michigan provides criminal liability for a parent of any child under age 18 whose child violates a state firearm-related law while on school property, if the parent had custody of the child and: 1) knew the child would commit the violation; or 2) acted to further the violation.

Finally, the penalty is extreme. A felony conviction has serious consequences when it comes to future gun ownership, voting rights, job accessibility, etc. Not only is the storage requirement onerous and unnecessary, but it will turn those exercising their Second Amendment rights into felons. This is a one size fits all approach to a very nuanced issue.

For these reasons and several others, the NRA is opposed to the passage of SBs 79-80 and HBs 4139 and 4144.

Once again, I respectfully request you vote no on these bill packages.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Jones
Michigan State Director
NRA Institute for Legislative Action