

HB 2510

Universal mandatory storage requirements are counterproductive.

In general, mandatory storage legislation seeks to require that firearms kept in the home be stored with a trigger or gun-locking device, under lock and key, or in another approved way such as a safe.

Everyone knows that firearms must be stored safely, but most Americans feel that it is not the government's business to dictate how people store things in their homes.

There is no compelling need for such invasions of privacy for the following reasons:

- Today, fatal firearm accidents are at an all-time low.
- While the number of privately owned firearms has quadrupled since 1930, the annual number of fatal firearm accidents has declined by 62%. Firearms are involved in 1.5% of accidental fatalities nationwide, far behind the deaths due to motor vehicle accident (47%), falling (15%), poisoning (10%), drowning (4%), fire (3%), suffocation on an ingested object (3%) and other causes. (National Safety Council, National Center for Health Statistics)
- Mandatory storage laws that exact penalties are unnecessary.
- Oregon already provide penalties for reckless endangerment, under which an adult found grossly negligent in the storage of a firearm under certain circumstances can be prosecuted for a felony offense.

No "one size fits all" requirement can possibly meet the needs of all American gun owners, whose circumstances vary greatly. For example, gun owners without children in their homes may have different storage needs than those with children present.

Gun owners who live in high-rise apartments may have different needs than those who live on isolated farms or ranches.

Responsibility must remain with the individual firearm owner, not the government, to determine how to ensure that guns are safely stored.

In an emergency, a trigger lock can handicap a person who needs a gun for protection.

While firearms kept only for hunting, target shooting or as collector's items should be stored unloaded, firearms kept for personal protection may be better stored ready for use. Some trigger lock manufacturers recommend that their products not be used on loaded firearms.

1. Trigger locks and other such devices can fail.
2. Trigger locks do not make firearms foolproof and are not substitutes for safe firearms handling practices, dictated by long standing safety rules. Reliance on devices, rather than safety rules, can instill a false sense of security that can lead to problems when a device-less firearm is encountered.

Do Not Pass This Unneeded intrusive bill