

Honorable Chair Kropf and Fellow Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2006 as currently drafted. I am a trained leader/instructor of a youth shooting sports program that offers youth throughout our county a youth development program that uses Shotgun and Rifle marksmanship to develop our next generation of educated, responsible and law-abiding firearm users. I greatly value your time and will get right to the point.

Our club owns a collection of both .22 rifles, .22 pistols, and both 20 and 12-gauge shotguns. We have a variety of actions including revolvers, pump actions, bolt actions, and semi-automatic. There is a specific reason why we have semi-automatic shotguns a) generally less expensive, b) are lighter, c) and felt recoil is less than pump or break-action shotguns. These traits are critically important to our youngest athletes as they are eligible to participate when they turn 9 years old. Furthermore, other than break action, the safest shotgun to use for double (shooting two targets) is the semi-automatic action because there is no manipulating the gun to fire the second shell. As written this bill would not allow us to use over half of our current inventory of firearms and would negatively impact our youth. I would suggest the following amendment: **A) Semi-automatic shotguns, rifles, and pistols if owned by a youth shooting club or organization that sponsors a youth shooting program may with parent's or guardian's consent temporarily transfer semi-automatic action shotguns, pistols, or rifles for use on a range while under the direct supervision of trained leaders or instructors. The firearms must be returned to the club or organization at the conclusion of each range session. Firearms must be stored and secured where minors cannot access firearms without adult supervision.**

B) Semi-automatic shotguns and rifles that are limited to 5 or fewer rounds/shells may be temporarily transferred by parents or guardians to their children under 21 years of age for hunting, target practicing, or competition.

One difference of our program as compared to many others is we provide the firearms, ammunition, and targets at no charge to the youth athlete or families. As you can imagine the cost of purchasing both a rifle and shotgun is oftentimes out of the reach of families, and we remove that obstacle. This law by disallowing the transfer of firearms by anyone other than the parent or guardian will negatively impact those youth that may not be able to afford to purchase a firearm of their own.

In conclusion, I personally do not agree with the need to change the language of current law, which provides sufficient protection for our youth and community. The idea that my 19-year-old son, who is a competitive shotgun athlete and has been bird hunting with me for over 10 years will not be able to bring his hunting shotgun home from college without breaking the law because it is a semi-automatic hunting shotgun is ludicrous to me, but I am a realist and recognize that for reasons that don't apply to the vast majority of minors and citizens between 18 and 21 the legislature will take action on this matter. I respectfully request that we limit the damage to our responsible youth athletes and hunters by amending the current law with language similar to what I have proposed above.

Respectfully,

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