

Submitted by: John McDonnell
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: HB 2006
Position: Opposed

Dear Committee Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members

HB2006 serves no purpose but to make some people feel better. There will be no impact on community safety. During testimony Wednesday, several people repeated a statistic that suicide is the leading cause of death among children and especially teenagers. I don't know where they obtained their statistics but they do not fall in line with CDC studies. Here is a link to one such study:

<https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/disparities-in-suicide.html#age>

There is no doubt that any suicide is tragic and the emotional damage to a family, loved ones, the community and friends cannot be measured. What is even more tragic is when objects are vilified for the senseless death when experience shows that core causes were not explored, even though symptoms were present. If suicide is the main reason for prohibiting those under 21 from possessing firearms, then much more attention needs to be paid to root causes and treating those, not banning objects.

When youths misuse firearms, it is indeed tragic. But again, whenever there is a public shooting, friend, teachers, family members, and the police often report that this person had prior run ins with police, had made comments about committing violent acts to friends, or made those kinds of remarks on social media. We have national red flag laws that were introduced with the promises that they would save lives. Why then are they not being used?

Please spend the taxpayers time and money in more responsible ways by actually stopping crimes and not blaming objects for human acts.

Vote no on HB 2006.