

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB697

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 697, which seeks to prohibit individuals under 21 years of age from possessing firearms, with specified exceptions. While I understand the desire to enhance public safety, I believe this legislation is misguided and will not effectively address the underlying issues related to gun violence.

First and foremost, this bill unfairly targets responsible young adults who are legally allowed to possess firearms and who may use them for legitimate purposes, such as hunting, sport shooting, or personal protection. Many individuals under 21 are responsible, trained, and law-abiding citizens who should not be penalized for the actions of a few. This blanket restriction does not account for the maturity and responsibility of many young adults who are capable of safely handling firearms.

Furthermore, the legislation fails to address the root causes of gun violence. Instead of imposing restrictions that limit the rights of responsible citizens, we should focus on comprehensive approaches that address mental health issues, improve education on firearm safety, and promote responsible gun ownership. Targeting age-specific restrictions may provide a superficial solution without tackling the complexities of gun-related incidents.

Additionally, the bill could create unintended consequences, such as pushing young adults to seek firearms through illegal channels, thereby undermining the very goals of the legislation. By limiting legal access, we may inadvertently encourage irresponsible behavior rather than promoting safety.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose SB 697. This legislation does not effectively promote public safety and unfairly restricts the rights of responsible young adults. Let us focus on solutions that enhance safety while respecting the rights of all citizens.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue.