

Submitter: James Mitchell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB697

First and foremost, it is important to acknowledge that similar age-based firearm restrictions have already been ruled unconstitutional by a federal appeals court. The court determined that such measures violate the Second Amendment rights of young adults aged 18 to 20. Passing legislation that directly contradicts established case law undermines the judicial system and invites costly and unnecessary legal challenges. This bill risks being struck down on the same constitutional grounds, wasting valuable time and resources.

Second, this bill unfairly targets law-abiding young adults who have the legal right and maturity to engage in other significant responsibilities, such as voting, serving in the military, signing contracts, and paying taxes. Denying them the ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights based solely on age treats them as second-class citizens, despite their proven ability to make important decisions and contribute to society.

Rather than imposing a blanket prohibition, efforts should focus on providing education and training to promote responsible firearm ownership among all age groups. Programs that emphasize safety, proper handling, and respect for firearms have been shown to be far more effective in reducing accidents and misuse.

In light of the constitutional issues, the discriminatory nature of the bill, and the lack of evidence supporting its effectiveness, I urge this committee to oppose this legislation. Instead, we should focus on developing solutions that both respect the rights of young adults and enhance public safety.