

Submitter: Seth Kezar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB697

Dear Senate Committee On Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that would prohibit individuals under the age of 21 from possessing firearms, with specified exceptions. As a resident of Seattle, Washington, I believe this measure infringes upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens and fails to address the root causes of gun-related issues.

First and foremost, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees citizens the right to keep and bear arms. While I acknowledge the need for reasonable regulations to ensure public safety, blanket restrictions based solely on age are overly broad and unjust. Many individuals under 21 are responsible, law-abiding citizens who should not be denied their constitutional rights without compelling evidence that such a measure would lead to a significant reduction in gun-related incidents.

Furthermore, the proposed legislation does not adequately consider the diverse circumstances of young adults. For example, members of the military under the age of 21 are entrusted with firearms in the service of their country. Denying them the right to possess firearms in their personal lives upon returning home seems inconsistent and unfair. Additionally, many young adults live in rural areas where firearms are essential for hunting and self-defense. Restricting their access to firearms could disproportionately affect their way of life.

Instead of implementing age-based restrictions, I urge you to focus on policies that address the underlying causes of gun violence, such as improving mental health services, enhancing background checks, and promoting responsible gun ownership education. These approaches target the behaviors and circumstances that contribute to gun-related incidents without infringing upon the rights of responsible citizens.

In conclusion, while I share the concern for public safety, I believe that prohibiting individuals under 21 from possessing firearms is an overreach that does not effectively address the issue. I respectfully request that you oppose this legislation and consider alternative measures that uphold constitutional rights while promoting genuine public safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Seth Kezar