



January 31, 2017

The Honorable Laurie Jenkins
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
John L. O'Brien Bldg., 204A
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

RE: HB 1122 (Kagi) "Safe Storage of Firearms"
POSITION: OPPOSE
LOCATION: House Judiciary

Dear Representative Jenkins,

On behalf of the members and supporters of Firearms Policy Coalition, I **respectfully submit our opposition to House Bill 1122 (Kagi)**, a "safe storage" measure that seeks to make legal firearms owners criminally liable for the acts of criminals and thieves. This law would turn honest Americans that are victims of theft into felons and hold them responsible for the actions of third parties.

This bill does not consider a securely locked home as locked and secured, thus it inappropriately shifts liability from the criminal back to the victimized gun owner. Would this body propose lawful owners of other common items be held criminally liable for the acts of others--like motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, or knives?

Current child endangerment laws have been used to charge individuals that may have been criminally negligent, while this measure is broad and vague in its approach and begs the question; is it truly the intention of this committee to throw an otherwise law-abiding and loving parent in prison after potentially losing a child?

Responsibility absolutely goes hand-in-hand with being an owner of any potentially dangerous item; however, our members and supporters can not support such a broad and cold-hearted law that so harshly re-victimizes families, friends, and neighbors for the conduct of a criminal, or a tragic accident involving a child.

Finally, as section 2(4) of the proposed law prophetically acknowledges, some prosecutions using this law would, "result in decreased respect for the law." I submit that offering this ill-conceived and short-sighted measure for passage to the floor, also runs the risk of loss of respect for this august institution.

For all of the reasons stated above, we must oppose HB 1122 and urge your "NO" vote. Please feel free to contact me at (855) 372-7522 if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

/s/
Philip Watson
Legislative Advocate

Cc: Judiciary Committee Members, Rep. Kagi, Rep. Chopp, Rep. Kristiansen.

