



February, 27 2017

FLOOR ALERT

Speaker Frank Chopp
339C Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: SHB 1122 (Kagi/Goodman) “Safe Storage of Firearms”
POSITION: Oppose Unless Amended
LOCATION: House Rules

Dear Speaker Chopp,

On behalf of the members and supporters of Firearms Policy Coalition, I **respectfully submit our opposition to Substitute House Bill 1122 (Kagi)**, a “safe storage” measure that seeks to make legal firearms owners criminally liable for tragic acts involving children and teenagers.

Current child endangerment laws have been used to charge individuals that may have been criminally negligent.

Is it truly the intention of this body to convict and send an otherwise law-abiding and loving parent or relative to prison for up to five years as a Class C Felon after potentially losing a child or teenager to an accident or suicide? While we commend the authors for their hard work listening to stakeholders, we still must object due to the intense gravity of the situation where a child or teenager can further destroy their own family.

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 passing this ill-conceived and short-sighted measure 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 unless amended.

Respectfully,

/s/
Philip Watson
Legislative Advocate

Cc: House of Representatives, Senate Law and Justice Committee