



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**SB 676
Support**

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Tuesday March 15, 2022

SB 676 – Firearm Safety – Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn’s Law)

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The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill.

This bill is critical to reduce youth suicides and other firearm deaths by ensuring that firearms are safely stored so that they are inaccessible to children.

The City of Takoma Park recognizes the risks associated with youth access to firearms. It is known that when a home contains unlocked guns, the odds of a child or adolescent dying by firearm suicide is more than twice as high than in households where guns are locked.ⁱ Firearms are the most common method of suicide, and a suicide attempt with a firearm is more likely to be fatal than attempts involving other methods.ⁱⁱ

This bill is consistent with Takoma Park’s existing policy and we encourage these safe and common-sense practices to be codified at the state level to protect our youth. The City currently defines “minor” as an individual younger than 18 years of age, which is a provision this bill is suggesting.ⁱⁱⁱ

For these reasons—the critical importance of protecting our youth, participating in common sense safety practices, and considering the unfortunate consequences of access to firearms, the City supports this measure.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports SB 676, and encourages a favorable vote.

ⁱ [Youth Suicide Rates Higher in States With More Gun Ownership | Healthiest Communities | US News](#)

ⁱⁱ [The Accessibility of Firearms and Risk for Suicide and Homicide Victimization Among Household Members: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis: Annals of Internal Medicine: Vol 160, No 2 \(acpjournals.org\)](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Chapter 14.16 GUN REGULATION \(codepublishing.com\)](#)