

## **Child Firearm Access Prevention and Responsible Gun Storage**

### **Background**

Secure firearm storage practices are associated with a decrease in suicides, unintentional injuries, and gun thefts. However, safe storage mandates are difficult to enforce and impractical for gun owners who own firearms for self-defense purposes.

### **About the Policy**

This policy aims to enculturate secure firearm storage and staging practices within the gun community through enforcement of existing criminal negligence laws, tax incentives on the development and purchase of storage and staging devices, and a broader public health campaign that engages various experts, including many stakeholders in the gun community. Unlike much of the legislation seeking to remedy the issue of irresponsible firearm storage, the policy does not include a uniform safe storage mandate for gun owners.

### **Protection of Gun Rights**

This policy addresses the three primary concerns that gun owners have about uniform storage mandates: (1) they are a one size fits all approach that is not relevant in some situations; (2) that they rely largely on biometric devices which are not always reliable; and (3) that they focus only on storage, not staging, and therefore may negate the very purpose that some people own guns in the first place: self-defense in the home. Instead, the policy relies upon existing criminal negligence laws to create a strong incentive for gun owners to use safe storage and staging practices; the definitions are narrow so as to only target those who kept their firearms in a manner where they reasonably should have foreseen that a prohibited person or a minor would gain access.

The policy also protects gun owners whose firearms were stolen during an unlawful entry into their premises from liability if the theft was reported promptly upon discovery to law enforcement. Furthermore, the policy involves various stakeholders in the gun community in a coordinated campaign effort to incentivize responsible storage and staging practices and also provides financial incentives for the purchase of safe storage and staging devices.

### **Protection of Public Health**

This policy adds substantial new gun violence prevention protections at the state level by using criminal negligence laws, rather than uniform mandates for storage, which many gun

owners oppose and do not comply with. The efficacy of relying on liability for negligence rather than uniform mandates is supported by a strong evidence base. This policy also includes novel approaches to enculturating safe storage and staging practices within the firearm community through education, public health campaigns, and financial incentives. Furthermore, this policy would require the distribution of storage and staging devices (such as locks), as well as instructional resources, at the point of purchase for all firearm sales and transfers. These devices are constantly made accessible free of charge by law enforcement, meaning that such a provision will have minimal to no financial burden on firearm dealers.

### **Consent Tally**

This proposal received the consent of 21 of the 23 panelists.