

September 26, 2023

Chairman Roemer and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I write on behalf of the members of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc (NSSF) in support of House Bill 186. NSSF is the firearm industry trade association and the owner of SHOT Show, which is the nation's largest trade show devoted to the shooting, hunting, and outdoor industry. The firearm industry currently creates over 15,000 jobs in Ohio and has an annual economic impact of over \$2.5 billion in the state.

In addition to advocating for the 10,000+ firearm industry companies we represent, NSSF works to "create safer communities through proven partnerships with law enforcement, elected officials, and community leaders." We do this through programming that we call REAL SOLUTIONS (nssfrealolutions.org). There are five programs under the REAL SOLUTIONS umbrella, but two are relevant to the discussion here today.

NSSF has an active partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. In partnership with these organizations, we developed a Suicide Prevention toolkit that helps firearm retailers, range operators, and customers understand risk factors and warning signs relating to suicide, know where to find help, and encourage secure firearm storage options. These kits include posters, flyers, and other materials. To date, over 6,000 Suicide Prevention toolkits have been distributed to firearm businesses across the country.

The second relevant program here today is known as Project ChildSafe®. Since 1998, firearm manufacturers have included 70 million free locking devices with nearly all new firearms sold. NSSF launched Project ChildSafe in 1999 to make locking devices even more accessible to gun owners nationwide. Since 1999, we have distributed an additional 40 million free firearm safety kits to gun owners in all 50 states. These are typically provided by NSSF and distributed by law enforcement agencies that we partner with. Here in Ohio specifically since 2019, we have provided 56,500 free gun locking devices to Ohioans through 300 law enforcement departments. You can see a list of our law enforcement partners here in Ohio at projectchildsafe.org.

NSSF does not support storage mandates because individual gun owners know best how to safely store firearms in their unique living situation. This bill does not create a mandate, but promotes safe firearm handling and storage by making firearm safety devices exempt from the sale and use tax. Thanks to Representative Brewer and Representative Brennan for introducing HB 186 and thanks to the committee for the opportunity to speak in support.

Respectfully,



Christopher Lee

NSSF – The Firearm Industry Trade Association

GUN STORAGE FOR YOUR LIFESTYLE

As a gun owner, you can choose from multiple options for safely storing and protecting your firearms when they're not in use.

Use this guide to determine which mechanism best suits your lifestyle, priorities and environment.

A RANGE OF OPTIONS

**PLEASE
HELP
PREVENT
ACCIDENTS.
STORE
FIREARMS
RESPONSIBLY.**

These are just a few of the storage options available to firearms owners. For the greatest level of security, consider using a combination of safety mechanisms and educate family members about handling firearms properly.

To learn more about firearms safety, visit ProjectChildSafe.org



Project ChildSafe is a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation®

NSSF
The Firearm Industry Trade Association



CABLE LOCK

Price Range: \$10-\$50

A cable lock can be used on most firearms, allows for quick access in an emergency and offers security from theft. The cable runs through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent it from being accidentally fired, requiring either a key or combination to unlock it.

- AFFORDABLE
- ACCESSIBLE
- THEFT DETERRENT



GUN CASE

Price Range: \$10-\$150

For those looking to conceal, protect or legally transport a registered firearm, a gun case is an affordable solution available in a variety of materials including plastic, fabric or metal. Be sure to lock it with an external device for added security.

- AFFORDABLE
- PORTABLE
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE



LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$25-\$350

With integrated locks, storage boxes provide reliable protection for firearms, and allow gun owners to legally transport them outside of their home.

- PORTABLE
- ACCESSIBLE
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE



ELECTRONIC LOCK BOX

Price Range: \$50-\$350

Electronic lock boxes are an effective way to store or legally transport firearms, and they also prevent theft since only the person with the code can access the contents. Some electronic lock boxes are specially designed for quick access to stored firearms.

- PORTABLE
- THEFT DETERRENT
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE



FULL SIZE AND BIOMETRIC GUN SAFES

Price Range: \$200-\$2,500

A gun safe protects its contents from the elements and allows owners to safely store multiple firearms in one place. Gun safes of all sizes are now available with biometric options to ensure only certain people have access.

- THEFT DETERRENT
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE

VEHICLE STORAGE



CONSOLE STORAGE

Price Range: \$250 - \$300

A solution for those who need a truly secure place to store their firearm in a vehicle. These custom-fitted devices provide concealment to deter prying eyes and would-be thieves. Various access options are available, including biometric.

- THEFT DETERRENT
- ACCESSIBLE
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE



CARGO AREA STORAGE

Price Range: \$500 - \$1,500

Effective for transporting firearms to the range or field, cargo area storage models are available for sedans, SUVs and trucks. These devices allow for locked storage, concealment and protection from bumps and jostling.

- THEFT DETERRENT
- ACCESSIBLE
- PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE

SECURE STORAGE ACCESSORIES



WIRELESS GUN SAFE MONITOR

Price Range: \$150 - \$200

An electronic monitor can provide awareness and alert you if anyone is accessing your storage device or handling your firearm without your authorization. Some sound an audible alarm, others can be connected to your smartphone.

- THEFT DETERRENT
- REMOTE MONITORING



ELECTRONIC HOLSTERS

Price Range: \$200 - \$300

Electronic holsters are a new type of secure storage device that enable fast access along with security to prevent unauthorized access. Holsters can be mounted or used independent of a mounting system and feature a programmable finger or thumbprint scan.

- PORTABLE
- ACCESSIBLE
- THEFT DETERRENT