

Senator:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, a public policy think tank based in Albuquerque. Along with our work to advance economic freedom, we work to promote and preserve the constitutional rights and liberties of all New Mexicans.

In the interest of New Mexico firearm owners, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on SB 224, the “Crime of Failure to Secure Firearm” bill. This bill would not only create new crimes and criminalize many law-abiding firearm owners, but its definitions are so broad as to create confusion and frequent accidental violations. For example, in some circumstances a locked front door would fulfill the requirements of “properly securing a firearm.” A “firearms safety training course” is also never defined, meaning that a reasonable person could assume that a parent training their child in firearm safety has met the stipulations of this bill. If this requirement of SB 224 is meant to refer to a different kind of course, then New Mexico citizens will be criminalized for not following an arbitrary and hidden mandate that is not explained in this bill. SB 224 also ignores that children under the age of twelve are allowed to hunt under current Department of Game and Fish regulations and would thus outlaw a currently legal sport and pastime enjoyed by many New Mexicans and their families.

SB 224 would create criminals of many law-abiding New Mexicans and would do nothing to halt the traffic of illegal weapons among criminals. Please vote no on SB 224.



Frank Pagurko III