



The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 23, 2019

RE: AB 688 (Chu) – Firearms Storage Requirements in Vehicles – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) must oppose AB 688 (Chu), which would require all shotguns and rifles in an unattended vehicle to be secured in a lock box or by cable that is secured to the vehicle's frame using a steel cable lock or chain and padlock or in a locked container that is secured using a steel cable lock or chain and padlock or that is permanently affixed to the vehicle.

This bill would place unnecessary and burdensome restrictions on licensed hunters, particularly those who drive SUVs that lack a trunk. For example, during wet weather waterfowl hunters often leave their shotgun uncased after hunting to allow the firearm to dry out and prevent rust from damaging it. Other hunters who travel on forest service or other rural roads during their hunting expeditions would also be negatively impacted by AB 688's requirements.

Please note that prior to obtaining a hunting license, every person must take a 10-hour safety course and pass a test. In light of this and other longstanding safety requirements, hunting-related accidents with firearms are rare in California <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education/Stats> and almost never involve non-hunting members of the public. Clearly, licensed hunters already handle their firearms responsibly and safely.

It should also be noted that several parts of the Penal Code exempt licensed hunters from various firearm-related restrictions or requirements. Most recently in 2018, Penal Code Section 27510 was amended by SB 1100 (Portantino) to exempt licensed hunters from the new requirement that someone must be at least 21 years of age (as opposed to 18) to purchase a long gun. However, AB 688 contains no such exception.

For these reasons, please oppose this bill when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

Mark Hennelly, Vice President

cc: Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Assembly Member Chu

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