



**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION  
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD  
FAIRFAX, VA 22030-7400**

April 21, 2014

The Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee  
Michigan Senate  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

**RE: House Bill 5085 - Letter of Support**

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Rifle Association and the tens of thousands of NRA members who reside in the state of Michigan, I request your support for House Bill 5085 as it makes its way through the legislative process. HB 5085 is a pragmatic piece of legislation that corrects an unduly burdensome restraint on youth firearm education by reasonably expanding the class of individuals who are allowed to supervise and instruct Michigan's youth in the safe use of pistols.

Under current Michigan law, an individual who is under the age of 18 is prohibited from possessing a pistol "for the purposes of target practice or instruction in the safe use," *unless* the "person's parent or guardian is physically present and supervising the person."<sup>1</sup> As a result, responsible family members, close friends, range instructors, and youth organizations (e.g. Boy Scouts of America) are all effectively precluded from supervising and instructing on the safe use of a pistol in a controlled environment.

If passed, HB 5085 would open the door for some of the aforementioned classes of individuals to provide pistol training and safety instruction to Michigan's youth, while also ensuring that supervision is undertaken by a responsible adult. HB 5085 achieves this goal by amending the current law to provide that an individual who is 21 years or older, has successfully completed a state certified pistol training course, and has obtained parental authorization, may supervise and provide instruction in the safe use of a pistol at a target range.

Safety training and familiarity are the two most important components in decreasing the scope and toll of firearm accidents. I hope that you will join the NRA, Boy Scouts of America and Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners in supporting safe and responsible firearm training. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (703) 267-1213 if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Dakota J. Moore**  
State Liaison

## Support Safe and Responsible Firearm Training for Michigan's Youth

HB 5085 corrects an unduly burdensome restraint on youth firearm education by reasonably expanding the class of individuals who are allowed to supervise and instruct Michigan's youth on the safe use of pistols. Compared to the surrounding jurisdictions, Michigan's requirement that the minor be under the direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian—as opposed to a responsible adult—is by far the most restrictive.

