

A Testimony in Opposition of a Proposed Senate Bill (SB0039)

Good afternoon Senators,

My name is Giovannie Lopez, lifelong Maryland resident and pro-gun advocate, and I am here today to voice my opposition to the proposed senate bill (SB0039).

The reasoning behind my opposition is three-fold: This bill is redundant under current law, this bill will infringe upon our 2nd, 4th, and 5th amendment rights, and this bill simply will not work as you think it will.

Firstly, The bill SB39 would place the Anderson Manufacturing .223 Cal. AM-15 and .300 Cal. AM-15 on the list of guns set forth in MD Code Public Safety 5-101(r)(2) and thus would purport to ban these rifles as assault long guns under Section 4-301(d). This is redundant because under the current interpretation of the law, the Anderson AM-15 is already banned as it is deemed a “copy” of the banned Colt AR-15. Moreover, the Anderson .223 Caliber pistol (the weapon used in the Dayton, Ohio shooting, which we all know is what inspired this bill) is also banned as it is currently not on the Maryland handgun roster.

Furthermore, The Anderson Manufacturing AM-15 rifle in .300 BLK is not currently banned, as it is not a copy of the Colt AR15 rifle since it has no parts commonality with its barrels. In fact, if you were to use .300 BLK in an AR-15's barrel, you will likely cause serious injury to yourself as the round would detonate but be unable to exit the barrel, thus turning the barrel into a pipe-bomb. It is a .30 caliber round, the same bullet diameter used in guns chambered for the 30.06 or .308 cartridges, which are widely used for deer and hog hunting in Maryland and elsewhere. It is a round that is very niche and cost prohibitive as is, averaging around \$0.75 to \$1.00 per round, and is hardly, if ever, used in violent crime due to its niche and expensive existence.

Secondly, this bill authorizes the confiscation of a person's lawfully possessed property. This is an egregious affront to the 5th amendment of our constitution, barring a citizen from “[being] deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; [...]”. Furthermore, this also violates our protections under the 4th amendment, wherein “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated”. Simply rewriting the law to now deem what was previously legal to now be illegal does not constitute proper due process. Doing so is tyranny.

Third and last, this bill is merely another attempt at a blanket ban to weapons that had nothing to do with the choices made by the demented and wicked man who took innocent life in Ohio. Ban after ban, even in more authoritarian states such as California, we still see indiscriminate violence occur. You cannot fight evil with red tape and regulation anymore that I can create diamonds by rubbing charcoal between my hands. This bill will only serve to further infringe upon the rights of the law abiding and to continually tighten the noose around our second amendment rights within the state of Maryland. What our state needs are effective (and yes, that means violent) methods of crime deterrence and cessation, and that being the right to bear arms

in self-defense, as written into our second amendment and as is upheld by the supreme court ruling on D.C. vs. Heller.

What Marylanders need is for our state to become “Shall Issue” for the issuance of concealed weapons licenses. This will allow us to take responsibility for our own lives, as many of our fellow Americans can and do already in our neighboring states. The right to self-defense, as upheld in D.C. vs. Heller, is a “good and substantial reason” for a person to want a concealed carry weapon. We’ve tried regulation and it has gotten us nowhere. What we need are the proverbial “good guys with guns” like the hero from the recent Texas church shooting.

I would happily discuss my innumerable protests against this bill, and the many others like it currently in law, however, I am aware that our time is limited. Thank you for your time, and I implore you to research into the ramifications of this bill and to reconsider any support you may have for it. Thank you.