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*Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in Opposition to SB39*

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January 15,2020

I am a member of Multiple Gun Rights organizations. Maryland Shall Issue, Associated Gun Clubs, and the National Rifle Association. I am a certified Range Safety Officer with the NRA. I compete in multiple shooting events such as Steel Challenge, 3-gun, small bore, and vintage military rifle matches. I have been an avid firearms collector for over 10 years. I strongly oppose SB39.

This bill is in response to a single shooting that happened in Ohio, where a shooter used an AR Pistol with an Anderson Manufacturing Lower Receiver. It is bad practice to ban something, based on one instance of abuse. The item used was not even a rifle, which is what this bill addresses. Furthermore, the AM-15 in .223 is already banned as a copycat of the Colt AR-15. The pistol version of an AM-15 in .223 is also banned, as it is not on the handgun roster that Maryland has established.

.300BLK is a ridiculous caliber to ban. It is routinely used in long range competition shooting and hunting, and is virtually never used in crime. Retroactively banning this item to 2013 would also pose legal issues for those who had lawfully owned such firearms prior to the adoption of this bill, were it to pass. I refer you to Mark Pennak's testimony for more detail on this issue.

FSA 2013, which this bill wishes to amend, has already been proven to be a dismal failure. The murder rate has increased every year but one since its adoption. The rate of murders performed using a rifle has remained extremely low in the state of Maryland. The highest number of murders using a rifle in the past 10 years has been 5. In 2012 and 2017. These numbers are from the FBI. This bill claims to exist for "Public Safety". There is no public safety benefit to this bill.

I request an unfavorable report.

Katherine Novotny

District 7

443-617-7568