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HB636 (SB646) OPPOSE
HB1257 (SB816) OPPOSE
HB910 (SB958) OPPOSE
HB591 OPPOSE
HB1501 OPPOSE
HB1104 OPPOSE
HB1261 OPPOSE

Honorable State of Maryland House Judiciary Committee,

I find myself again this year as a Maryland resident under the threat of becoming a common criminal simply by my choice to be a law-abiding owner of firearms.

I am a peace-loving 50 year resident of Maryland, I raised my family here, vacationed in Ocean City and Deep Creek Lake, I retired from government service at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland has been a wonderful place to live, until now. I feel threatened because later in life I chose to pick recreational shooting as a hobby that I could enjoy with friends and family.

I do everything right; my firearms are locked in a safe; my ammunition is locked in yet another safe, but somehow, according to some legislators in Maryland, my ownership of firearms is causing crimes of gun violence to increase across the state. I fail to see the connection, since the only time my guns come out of my safe is when they are under my complete control and used for target shooting and recreational purposes only. The obvious truth is there is no connection, plain and simple.

It's all too obvious that criminals don't care about or complete background checks; they don't care how many rounds are in the magazine, the more the better; they don't care who they get a gun from; they don't lock up their guns at night; they don't report stolen firearms, they're probably holding one, and that list goes on and on...

I find the lack of general knowledge about firearms and the steps it takes to legally purchase a firearm in Maryland by some of our elected officials surprising. I feel that they could work toward better understanding what they are trying to legislate, because when the misinformation flows through them to the anti-gun groups and to the public, it incites fear and mistrust, and discourages open and honest conversation. The Second Amendment community stands for safety, education, responsibility, accountability, and freedom. Let's all try that for a while.

Yours in Freedom,
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