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Testimony in regard to SB 0672 and 0674

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Position on bill: Support

Finally two common sense bills that may actually impact the runaway violence plaguing Maryland in general and Baltimore in particular.

This is a bill that targets the criminal, not burdening law abiding citizens with *ineffective laws that restrict their rights to self defense, add expense to the exercise of those rights and create a new class of criminals by the swipe of the legislative pen.

*Ineffective: Since the passage of the sweeping firearms safety act of 2013, after a decade of decreasing violent crime, violence in Maryland has increased over 70% reaching record rates and earning Baltimore the distinction of the most dangerous city in the country. Common sense dictates that when a course of action is not only ineffective, but actually increases the problem, a different course of action is called for.

Instead of punishing law abiding citizens and creating criminals of them, these bills punishes individuals who are actually criminals! And bring the punishment in line with other crimes.

Maryland comes close to leading the nation in the decrease of the numbers of incarcerated individuals over the last 5 years. It is disturbing that while Maryland becomes more lenient, She also becomes more violent.

Maryland has a recidivism rate of over 40%. If keeping these potentially violent criminals off the street longer saves just one life..... And it can be assumed that they are potentially violent otherwise they would not need to steal a firearm

These bills are real deterrents to violent firearms crime, if they are utilized and followed by the courts. The revolving door justice system now, where criminals know if they steal a firearm, it will not cost them any extra time, and probably be pleabargained out of the charges anyway is not much of a credible deterrent.

V/R
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