

# Testimony against bills HB0004 and SB0039

Nicholas DeTello 1/15/2020

## **HB0004 -Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions**

My wife and I are homeowners, taxpayers and responsible gunowners in Maryland. As an active member of the Carroll County Gun Club I believe this bill to be unconstitutional and that it will be damaging to the community. Bills such as this one are trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist – and only serve to discourage citizens from exercising their rights. It is targeting guns that are not only used in a minority of crime – but are commonly owned as a means of self-defense or for sporting. If I were to sell, or even lend a common shotgun to my not-related-by-blood brother in law – or a friend – not only would I have to know this law exists, in a state with an already unfathomable amount of unintuitive gun laws, but I would have to then comply with the law. And if I were found guilty of violating this bill I would be made a felon, no longer able to exercise my second amendment right. Putting a third party in the middle of that transaction complicates what should be a simple process, and it increases the price of the gun. Guns are already far too expensive and difficult to purchase in this state; this law will further drive citizens to bring their revenue to neighboring states, not exercise their rights, or to simply not follow the law. As a law-abiding citizen, and an Eagle Scout, I implore you to not pass this law.

## **SB0039 - Public Safety - Regulated Firearm - Definition**

This bill essentially is a gun ban since there isn't a grandfather clause or exception for current gun owners. I do not see any legitimate purpose to banning the Anderson AM-15 in .223 and .300 calibers. By passing this bill, law-abiding citizens who already own this rifle are inconvenienced; not only would they have to know the definition of the regulated firearm list had changed, the burden would be on them to stop owning that gun in Maryland. Even if you compensated a gun owner for this, these guns are in many cases more valuable than their sticker price; we pour time and effort into our purchases. It could be a gift from their now deceased father, or grandfather. Additionally, firearms/parts manufactured by Anderson are normally used by budget builders. Banning the AM-15 will not stop the rich or the well-off from owning firearms – in my opinion, this will only hurt people who can already barely afford the AR-15 platform, not criminals. The second amendment was written for all of the people – not just those that can afford it.