



TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILL 35-FIREARM TELEMATICS STUDY

Good afternoon, I hope this letter finds the members of the House Judiciary Committee well. I am writing in support of House Bill 35- Firearm Telematics Study. I have been a prosecutor for 16 years in Prince George's County and Baltimore City. I am currently the State's Attorney for Howard County, Maryland. Our country and our state are at this moment grappling with a gun violence problem. Our communities are flooded with readily accessible, highly lethal weapons that are mostly obtained through illegal methods. As such, exploring technological solutions that could play a role in curtailing the violence and expediting police response to violence is worthy of further exploration. With today's technology Firearm Telematics, fully utilized, would allow law enforcement to know in real time: where the firearm is located, if the firearm is fired, and the direction the weapon was fired in. This knowledge, in theory, could drastically reduce response times to urgent situations to render aid if necessary, locate witnesses to violent events, or to arrest those who have wrongfully used those lethal weapons. Additionally, if firearms were stolen, telematics would provide a means for law enforcement to in real time track, recover, and apprehend those weapons and the people who were in wrongful possession of them. A study would also crystallize some of the issues that the use of telematics will certainly face and present a broader view of this tracking technology and how it can assist law enforcement and reduce gun trafficking. I do appreciate that there may be questions about how to properly implement telematics and what features currently available we will permit due to competing privacy concerns and gun right activist concerns, but I am certain all parties can come to a mutually

beneficial agreement when the legislation is being drafted. For all the aforementioned reasons, I am requesting a favorable report for House Bill 35.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Gibson Jr.". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Richard Gibson Jr.