

I am writing to express my opposition to the following bills that have been proposed this legislative session:

HB636, SB646
HB1257, SB816
HB910, SB958
HB1078
HB591
HB1104
HB1501
HB1261
SB208
SB39
HB35

I am opposed to all of these bills but I am particularly concerned about HB910 (SB958) and HB1261.

HB910 (SB958) intends to ban possession of homemade firearms, which have been perfectly legal up until this point. If this bill becomes law, citizens who have been careful to follow all of the rules would become criminals overnight. There is no grandfathering, and no compensation for individuals who might be out thousands of dollars. Furthermore, it is unrealistic to expect criminal's intent on harming others to abide by such a law. Therefore this bill will only negatively affect the innocent.

HB1261 also bans many commonly-owned rifles that are used by Marylanders every day for hunting, sporting competition, and personal protection. The bill goes on to require costly registration and criminalizes people who cannot afford to pay. This will undoubtedly harm people of lesser means.

I ask you to please OPPOSE the bills listed above, and urge your colleagues to do the same. I have lived in Maryland my whole life, and I do not want to be a criminal. Please don't turn me into one with the stroke of a pen. In closing, I also ask that you consider one question: When in this history of our nation has the restriction of a civil right been shown to be beneficial?

Sincerely,
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