

12 FEB 2024

To: Maryland Judiciary Committee  
Maryland Senators & Delegates, et al

Re: HB0659-Criminal Law-Theft of a Handgun; Cross-filed SB0378

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of a FAVORABLE position for the referenced bill

To the members of the Maryland Judiciary Committee, fellow Senators, Delegates & interested parties, I am submitting my written testimony as a FAVORABLE position to move HB0659/SB0378 to a full floor vote. I am also supporting this bill to become law, so that Maryland's criminal law will be appropriately weighed to make the theft of a handgun a felony, punishable by fines, imprisonment or both.

As a firearms instructor & legal gun owner, Maryland's current laws are heavily weighted against legal gun owners, who take seriously our craft, skills, knowledge & attitude regarding firearms & self defense.

As a black woman, I am beyond frustrated at many of our Maryland Legislators who seemingly are hellbent on removing lawful & legal 2A rights from those of us who have legally & rightfully obtained our knowledge & who are intentional about exercising our Constitutional 2A rights. This imbalance of focus & the actual or underlying message that legal gun owners are the problem has to stop.

Criminals steal firearms, not legal gun owners. Violent criminals illegally use firearms to commit their illegal & immoral deeds. These violent criminals need to know that Maryland is serious about prosecuting those who would steal firearms AND those who would commit violent, illegal acts with those stolen firearms. Violent criminals need to know this & be held to account. Legal gun owners are NOT the problem.

Emphatically

Evie Harris

Feminine Flair Firearms Safety & Instruction

Baltimore, Maryland