

HB0947 – UNFAVORABLE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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I don't even know what to say. To put this kind of liability on the industry is simply unconscionable. Just like some of the other witnesses for HB935 this will put such an undue expense on the manufacturers and dealers that the people will go outside Maryland to purchase their firearms.

Liability shifting like this will result in the manufacturers and dealers purchasing more liability insurance to cover it. This insurance will be expensive because lawsuits are expensive! Like HB935 that cost will be passed onto the consumer and this cost will not be a once and done cost. It will be continuous. It is very similar to a tax on the manufacturers. But is under the guise of liability insurance premiums.

As you witnessed in testimony of HB935 the manufacturers will exit the state of Maryland and that turned out to be millions of dollars of tax revenue lost by the State, along with the sales tax by the consumer will result in more tax revenue loss.

This bill turns out to be an yet another infringement of rights by creating an excessive burden for people to own and carry firearms taking away their basic right to protect themselves. *McCullough V Maryland* established that “the power to tax [or make excessively expensive] is the power to control.”

This is UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

100% OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you.

Nelda Fink