

Good afternoon, Judicial Committee members. My name is Kierstyn. I'm 14 and have been a member of the Howard County 4-H Bullseye Club for 5 years. I am also one of the club officers. The 4-H Bullseye Club is a youth shooting sports club with 3 disciplines: shotgun, rifle, and archery.

Four years ago, I shadowed a representative, and coincidentally, House Bill 4 was heard, which could have affected 4-H shooting sports. That day, I was promised by the representative that no harm would ever come to 4-H shooting sports. However, I have been here twice in the past year to remind people about the promise.

Last year, I testified against Senate Bill 86 with fellow 4-H'ers. By passing this new House Bill 430, it will, at the very least, impact youth shooting sports by raising our dues. It will also affect our coaches who store and transport our firearms. This bill requires insurance for a youth sport that, according to Clemson University, is 45 thousand times less likely to cause an injury needing medical attention than youth soccer. And we do not know if insurance will even cover youth shooters. This legislation infringes upon our constitutional rights under

The Second Amendment. Teens and adults who cannot afford insurance will have their constitutional rights stripped from them because of income status. My family is a one-person working household, and this bill will likely make it difficult for me to shoot with my club. Our 2nd amendment right to bear arms is a God-given right to protect ourselves and property. Will it now only be for the higher-income households? I do believe that parents should lock up their firearms and take them out when necessary. Parents should be liable if something happens because of their negligence. Do not punish law-abiding citizens just because of a few criminals.

In 4-H, I have learned firearm safety, discipline, leadership, restraint, respect, public speaking, and many other life skills. I began shooting because of a medical condition that kept me from playing other organized sports. My grandfather used to take my mom to the rifle and shotgun range. He passed away before I was born, and shooting makes me feel like I have a connection to him. By passing this bill, you are punishing us and future 4-Hers. I strongly oppose and ask that you reject House Bill 430. We invite you to come to our mandatory March 14th club safety meeting. I will pass the committee information at the

end of my testimony. We also invite you to attend any of our shooting practices held on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. If this current bill passes, it will place our club in jeopardy. And it will have the opposite effect on what you are pursuing. Instead of encouraging and educating responsible gun ownership, which 4-H does, it will make thousands of children and parents criminals.