

HB0947_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
2/28/2022

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON HB#0947 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024)

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ HB#/0947, Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024)

Multiple laws exist that protect consumers from harm from unsafe products. We have an epidemic of gun violence in this country with more than one mass shooting a day since the beginning of the year. Much of this is attributable to the firearms industry's total disregard of how their products are marketed and sold. Weapons of war are being manufactured, imported, and sold, and the responsible parties have been shielded from responsibility for the carnage.

This bill is an attempt to alleviate some of the problems caused by this immoral conduct by that industry that no other industry would and is held harmless for. It will permit those damaged by the weapons so carelessly made available to have a path to redress the effects on them and our society at large by the willful proliferation of these dangerous weapons. The misinterpretation of the second amendment ignores the "well regulated militia" component of the amendment and favors arming everyone with weapons not meant for personal protection but for conducting warfare. The framers of the Constitution could not have foreseen, in a era of muskets, the quick and deadly arms now overwhelming our society.

This bill is an attempt to restore a balance between those harmed by guns and those whose sale, manufacture, distribution, importation and marketing have impacted their lives so tragically.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0947.