

Testimony for HB947

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Hello. My name is Donna Worthy. I am the president of Worth-A-Shot Firearms and also the President of the Maryland Licensed Firearms Dealer Association. I am testifying today on behalf of both organizations.

I am strongly opposed to Bill HB947. This bill has very vague language making it impossible for Firearms dealers to stay in business due to the liability assumed as this bill is written.

Firearm Dealers are highly regulated by both the ATF and the Maryland State Police. We go through regular audits with both agency. Firearm Dealers should not be held liable after a legal and lawful purchase took place. It would be impossible to obtain insurance under this bill for us. I personally spoke to multiple insurance companies about obtaining coverage under the bills guidelines and was informed that they would not be willing to provide coverage under these terms. They stated they could not insure us for a possible lawsuit after we had complied fully with the law and done everything legally at the time of purchase. Not being able to obtain insurance, would force firearms dealers out of business.

The MLFDA and myself are strongly opposed to this bill. As written this bill would force gun stores out of business due to no insurance company willing to offer coverage under these terms. We do not believe in holding dealers liable for a criminals illegal acts when we completed a transaction entirely in accordance with both state and federal laws. We are in favor of stronger penalties for criminals who commit illegal acts with firearms but not stronger penalties for law abiding gun dealers who are following all laws in place trying to support their families.

I strongly urge an unfavorable report on this bill.