



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 947: Civil Actions- Public Nuisances- Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024)

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League supports strong federal measures to limit accessibility and regulate the ownership of firearms by private citizens and **supports the allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.**

The League of Women Voters thus supports **House Bill 0947 Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024).**

Over 820 people are killed by gun violence every year in Maryland. Another 1400 are injured.ⁱ To address this issue, Maryland must target illegal practices within the gun pipeline. For example, under a similar nuisance law, New York City has sued five online ghost-gun retailers to stop the companies from illegally selling these guns and the kits to make them. To date, New York City has successfully negotiated agreements with four firearm companies, and obtained a preliminary injunction against a fifth, to stop the illegal sale of these ghost guns and kits.ⁱⁱ

HB 947 will allow both the Office of the Attorney General and private citizens to defend against improper practices within the firearms industry that threaten the lives and well-being of Maryland residents.

Reducing firearm violence is of crucial importance to our families, our schools, our communities, and our state. The League of Women Voters Maryland, representing 1,500+ concerned members throughout Maryland, urges a favorable report on House Bill 947.

ⁱ <https://www.marylandnonprofits.org/action-to-care-maryland-needs-a-big-plan-to-tackle-gun-violence-in-2023-and-we-all-play-a-part/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/039-23/new-york-city-supports-new-york-state-fight-against-gun-violence>