

HOUSE BILL 430

OPPOSED (UNF)

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I write both as a concerned citizen of Maryland, and an avid gun enthusiast and rifle and pistol competitor. I am the Deputy Chief Range Safety Officer at Sanner's Lake Sportsman's Club in Lexington Park, MD with over 700 members. Not only do I train NRA-certified Range Safety Officers, but I am also a holder of an MSP-approved Concealed Handgun Permit. I can assure you all 700 members of our Sportsman's Club would OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 430.

First, HB 430 aims to reduce the number of concealed carry handgun permit holders by levying an unconstitutional **tax** of \$300,000 in liability insurance.

Further, under Article - Public Safety, line 2 it states:

(b). Subject to Section 5-133.3 of this subtitle AND Section 5-903 OF THIS TITLE, a person may not **possess** a regulated firearm if the person: . . .

A person cannot currently purchase a regulated firearm under the provisions listed in HB 430 - except for the liability insurance provision.

HB 430 vastly expands the scope of the law for no logical reason. By virtue of my position, I know many Concealed Carriers holders. Almost all of them buy coverage via USCCA which provides \$2,000,000 worth of liability insurance in case they - one of the "good guys" - fear for their life and have to defend themselves with a pistol.

I also object to HB 430's provision that \$300,000 of liability insurance is required under 5-205 (line 16) to **possess a rifle or shotgun. This includes when in storage!** The authors of this

bill know nothing about firearms to think one would need liability insurance for one "going off" in storage.

HB 430 is, in essence, an unconstitutional **tax** to own a firearm, and would disproportionately impact low-income firearm owners. What is the State going to do if firearm owners don't have liability insurance for guns? Has the House thought that through . . . really?

Below are some important things I'd like the Committee to think about:

1. Recently there were two high-profile shootings: in Kansas City, and at Lakewood Church in Houston.

During the Kansas City shooting, the People chased down the two youth shooters, tackled them to the ground, and disarmed them until police could arrive.

At Lakewood Church, it was two off-duty police officers who took down the mentally deranged shooter. Sadly, one person died and 21 injured.

The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun.

2. The downside to passing additional gun control laws is that the good guys disarm themselves, making the rest of us vulnerable like sheep to the violent criminal wolves. Criminals don't obey the law anyway, so it is unclear how HB 430 improves Public Safety.

3. Guns don't kill anyone. People do. A gun - even chambered with a live round - will sit in the gun safe all day long and not hurt a single soul. It is when a criminal picks it up and decides to kill someone with it that we see death. No amount of legislation will stop a bad guy with evil intent or solve the problems of society.

A few questions:

- Why is the Government releasing violent criminals and mentally unstable people into our neighborhoods through lax

"arrest and release" policies? Historians will recognize this as classic Marxism.

- How do we improve **mental health** in our State?
- **Fatherlessness** is an epidemic that is a cancer in our society.
- How can the MD House address these important causal factors of crime?
- What is the MD House doing to keep the flood of illegal immigrants out of our State and cities? Especially those that are dropped off in DC.
- If a person gets in a car and runs through a crowd of people, is the car at fault, or the driver? Does it become an "Assault car?" What if the driver doesn't have "liability insurance?" Same with a kitchen knife used in a crime. Will we need legislation on "assault kitchen knives?"

4. 96% of shootings happen in "gun-free zones." There is no evidence that MSP-vetted concealed carry holders are perpetrating crime in Maryland.

5. What if someone carjacked your car with a child in the back seat? What is your plan?

6. If you saw a man with a knife climbing through your daughter's bedroom window, you would do anything to save her. What is your plan?

7. Does a young nursing student with an MSP-issued CCP have the right to protect herself while jogging on a trail in Maryland? Of course! **HB 430**, if enacted, would make her a *criminal* if she was attacked, feared for her life, and had to defend herself with a pistol if she couldn't afford the \$300K "liability insurance." Not only that, she would lose every other rifle, shotgun, or pistol she owned! That's unconstitutional and just wrong!

6. Do you believe those that are willing to rape, rob, and murder are going to comply with Maryland gun laws? Of course not!

7. What is the average response time for police in rural areas? Don't citizens have the God-given right to protect themselves until the police arrive? That's one reason we have the Second Amendment - something each of you swore a sacred Oath to protect. As citizens, we pay your salary to do just that!

8. In October 1993, Elder Dalen H. Oaks, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said:

“Increases in the number of working mothers of young children inevitably signal a reduced commitment of parental time to nurturing the young. The effect of these reductions is evident in the rising numbers of abortions, divorces, child neglect, and juvenile crime.”

This is the root of the problem. Not legal gun owners, or MSP-approved Concealed Carry holders.

For these and many other reasons, I **OPPOSE HB 430**.

Sincerely,

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