



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 185

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-203-9881

FAX 410-203-9891

Rich Gibson
President

Steven I. Kroll
Coordinator

DATE: February 3, 2025

BILL NUMBER: SB 443

POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports Senate Bill 443 and urges this Committee to issue a favorable report.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death among young people in our nation. The Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University found that nearly three times as many children between the ages of 10 and 17 died from gun homicides in 2022 than in 2013.¹ Due in large part to out-of-state firearms traffickers, illegal handguns are readily available and easy to obtain in our neighborhoods.²

SB 443 makes the illegal trafficking of regulated firearms a felony instead of misdemeanor, taking a modest, common-sense step towards ensuring our laws reflect the danger posed, and tragedy caused, by this conduct. MSAA urges this Committee to issue a favorable report.

¹ Silvia Villarreal, Rose Kim, Elizabeth Wagner, Nandita Somayaji, Ari Davis & Cassandra Crifasi, *Gun Violence in the United States 2022: Examining the Burden Among Children and Teens*. JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, September 2024, at 12.

² Ron Cassie, *Iron Pipeline*, BALTIMORE MAGAZINE, December 2020.