

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

TESTIMONY OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2020

RE: Senate Bill 39 - Oppose

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Banning more assault firearms will not reduce violent crime.

Research illustrates “assault weapons” bans do not reduce violent crime. FBI data shows that rifles are being used in less than three percent of homicides, which is much less than murders committed with blunt objects, sharp objects or bodily force. As you are likely aware, a ten-year ban on semi-automatic firearms and standard capacity magazines was enacted at the federal level in 1994. It failed to have any demonstrable effect on violence crime. After the ban’s sunset in 2004, a Department of Justice-funded study determined that “the ban’s effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement.” In 2018, the RAND Corporation released a comprehensive gun violence research study that surveyed the available research on several gun control policies. Within this project, RAND researchers sought to determine “How Bans on the Sale of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines Affect Gun Use Outcomes,” and found, “...no qualifying studies showing that bans on the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines decreased any of the eight outcomes we investigated.”

It is also of great concern that this bill sets a trap-door for owners who currently own legal firearms that will not be grandfathered if SB 39 passes. Criminalizing the possession of firearms currently held by Maryland citizens not about crime control – it’s a blatant attack on lawful gun owners.

Sincerely,

David Weber
NRA-ILA