

WHY ARE WE HERE AGAIN?

Hello, my name is John Gundling. I live in Hagerstown, MD and have done so without incident was 33 years. I have been a Second Amendment supporter since I was 14 years old and attended Military School, graduating with honors.

Last year the General Assembly introduced HB786, a true infringement on privacy [Fourth Amendment] as well as the Second Amendment. Today the very same bills, HB0004 and SB0208 come before the GA Senate with no hint of modification to preserve the God-given Rights of all American Citizens.

In particular senate bill 208 would deny any citizen and law abiding gun owner the right to lend my child, my wife, or my friend who doesn't own a shotgun or rifle, to participate in shooting sports, even if I'm right there with them; to maybe go hunting albeit supervised, and prove himself a responsible gun custodian. In addition this bill would make it virtually impossible to sell my shotgun or rifle to another person, regardless of my honorable intent.

This long gun bill known last year as House Bill 786 was defeated for several legal reasons at Sine die. Now the House and Senate has resurrected this bill again using whatever misnomer, politically correct but misleading term to subjugate citizens into serfs and subjects. Terms like "gun violence", "increasing public safety" [the actual statistics say otherwise], "common sense gun control", or any other totalitarian term that is/are all propaganda designed to cajole and persuade unsuspecting law abiding citizens to give up their God-given rights of self-determination via self-preservation.

The absurdity of this misguided proposal, and tragic irony as well, is that the legislation will do nothing to put a dent in violent crime or the murder rate in Maryland's most violent cities. Instead of disarming law abiding citizens perhaps our questions should be directed at mental health issues, illegal aliens among us also known as undocumented folks that have illegally obtained a firearm, gangs associated with such illegals as well as other well-known gangs that kill citizens and themselves with impunity. How are law abiding citizens supposed to protect themselves in this environment?

Instead of "no taxation without representation", our mantra should be in this case "no subjugation of our population". On December 12, 1774, in Annapolis Maryland, the backbone of our second amendment was born in a document

entitled "Maryland Resolves" herein included. The reason for this document, was that the Crown of King George mandated that all former soldiers employed in her majesty's service during the French and Indian War, were now ordered in this Colony as British subjects to relinquish their weapons and like it.

Thusly the seeds of revolution were planted and cultivated by the overreach of that government. Inside of the decade that followed the United States of America was formulated, cultivated, and later ratified. What is being proposed by this legislation is no less draconian, nor deleterious.

Perhaps the citizens of Maryland should consider sanctuary counties and/or regions of Maryland wherein the second amendment is held in its proper reverence. Moreover the citizens of the second amendment sanctuaries need not be taxed into oblivion like the rest of the state is to fund these tax and spend policies that only benefit the cronies of the various politicians that pull the strings. Since Decentralization has been in effect since the mid-1980s, perhaps these areas can become self-funding and eliminate sending all tax revenues to Baltimore or Annapolis.

Another idea might grow like this: Recently a state senator in West Virginia proposed that the second amendment sanctuary counties in Virginia be admitted back to West Virginia under some old law that was left in place after Virginia was bifurcated in 1863 to form the two state solution. With West Virginia adding ninety counties to its current fifty-five, what's another four more?: Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick.

The legislation that is proposed in this instance will split the country into a civil war. Secession is the beginning of a struggle toward a revolutionary remedy. Our country's main strength is its people. By criminalizing law abiding citizens and gun owners you're declaring war on that very core strength and backbone that has sustained our country; and you legislators have depended upon us for 239 years.

Sincerely,

John H. Gundling February 5, 2020

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