



# Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

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Bill No: Senate Bill 208  
Title: Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions  
Committee: Judicial Proceedings  
Hearing Date: February 5, 2020  
Position: SUPPORT

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The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **Senate Bill 208 a priority on the 2020 MLAW Agenda.**

MLAW supports Senate Bill 208 because closes a gap in Maryland law that makes it easy for prohibited purchasers to buy rifles and shotguns from unlicensed sellers with no background check and no questions asked.

Current Maryland law prohibits the possession of any firearms-including handguns, rifles and shotguns-by people with dangerous histories, including people who have been convicted of crimes of violence, domestic abusers, and those who have been made subject to an Extreme Risk Protective Order because they pose a danger to themselves or others.

Background checks are the most effective way to keep guns out of the hands of those who are legally prohibited from having them. Yet, federal law only requires a background check on guns sold by licensed gun dealers, creating a dangerous loophole that leaves unlicensed gun sales, like those negotiated over the internet or at gun shows, unregulated and unchecked.

For two decades, Maryland law has partially addressed this loophole by requiring a background check on all handgun sales in the state, including sales by unlicensed sellers. But a gap in Maryland law makes it easy for prohibited purchasers to buy rifles and shotguns from unlicensed sellers with no background check and no questions asked

Maryland should close this dangerous loophole by requiring a background check for all rifle and shotgun sales. **The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women strongly urges the passage of Senate Bill 208.**

**Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)**

305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 201 | Towson, MD 21204

mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com | 443-519-1005 | www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org

# MLAW Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of 2020 Legislative Agenda:

AAUW Maryland  
Anne Arundel County Commission for Women  
Anne Arundel County NOW  
Baltimore County Women's Commission  
Calvert County Commission for Women  
Charles County Commission of Veterans Affairs  
DC Coalition for Safe and Just Communities  
Federation of Jewish Women's Organization of Maryland  
Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA)  
HopeWorks of Howard County  
Law Office of Carole D. Brown, LLC  
Lincoln Park Historical Foundation  
Maryland Business and Professional Women  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Maryland NOW  
Maryland Women's Heritage Center  
MoCoWoMen  
Montgomery County BPW  
Montgomery County NOW  
Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club  
Montgomery County Young Democrats  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Anne Arundel Chapter  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Prince George's County, Md  
North Arundel Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
On Our Own of Montgomery County Inc.  
Planned Parenthood of Maryland  
Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.  
The Human Trafficking Prevention Project  
The Law Office of Jessica O'Kane  
The QED Foundation  
Women's Equality Day 2020 Celebration Coalition  
Women's Law Center of Maryland