

SB0208 -Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions

My name is Nick DeTello, and I oppose this bill. Accessibility to firearms is a right. How would you feel about a bill that restricted any other right for the entire state of Maryland? For example, what if I had to pay a "reasonable fee" every time I spoke at a public hearing such as this (*holding a dollar bill and placing it in a pile*). You might think, what about the exceptions in this bill? To that I say, what if you applied this restriction, under those exceptions to any other right? (*Add a dollar to the pile*). What if your right to practice religion was restricted, and could only be used in designated areas, or with 'immediate' family members? What if women could only vote for a political candidate when a police officer was involved? What if my right to an attorney could only be used temporarily, only after an arbiter decided I had an "imminent need"? When you apply this logic to any other right, this bill falls apart. Those without the privilege of affording a "reasonable fee" (*put rest of money in pile*) do not effectively have the same rights.

On a separate note, I want to stress that I understand where you're coming from. I understand that a tragedy in any regard is just that; a horrible act. However, restricting access to guns will likely bring about the opposite of what your intents are. The writers of the Constitution knew that an armed populace is a safe populace, and bills such as this one put the burden on law-abiding citizens, when the true issue is with criminals.

(*Pick up money, present it, and put in pocket while speaking*). I feel lucky that I live in America, where I am not forced to pay fees to access the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.