

February 5, 2020

Testimony - SB208 – Public Safety – Rifles and Shotguns Secondary Transactions

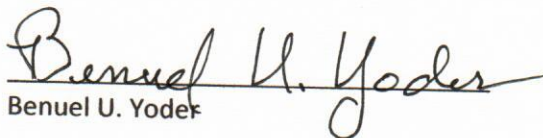
Amendment Support Request

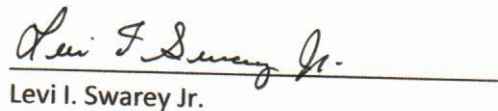
Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

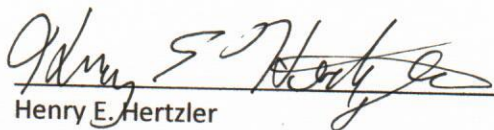
We are writing you today to share our concerns and request for an amendment to SB208. This legislation, as drafted would limit the ability of our community to purchase a firearm due to our religious beliefs. In our community, we do not believe in having our photo taken. The Southern Maryland Amish Community is made up of approximately 200 families and around 1500 people. One of the provisions of our old order community is that any member is not approved to own a handgun. Long guns are used for hunting, slaughter as well as protection for crops and varmints. Our wish is to be able to keep, hold, support, preserve and maintain our estate as well as heritage from our forefathers. To our knowledge, there are other smaller Amish communities in our state that this legislation would also negatively impact.

Our wishes, as far as Maryland gun laws are concerned is to be able to lawfully keep and use our firearms. We would like to lawfully be able help our descendants in hunting and be able to hand down or sell these long guns as well as legally purchase used firearms. Senator Bailey is incredibly familiar with our community and values. Should any questions arise, please direct them to him for follow up.

We appreciate your time and attention to our concerns and respectfully request a favorable report on this amendment for our community to continue to lawfully abide by our 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights. This amendment would allow for us to continue to lawfully purchase long guns without any discrimination of our religious beliefs or freedom.

  
Benuel U. Yoder

  
Levi I. Swarey Jr.

  
Henry E. Hertzler

  
Ira J. Hertzler