

Testimony of Caroline Broder
SUPPORT Senate Bill 208

TO: Chairman William C. Smith, Jr., Vice-Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Caroline Broder, Silver Spring, MD (District 20)

DATE: February 5, 2020

My name is Caroline Broder. I'm a mother of two and a volunteer with Maryland Chapter Leader for Moms Demand Action, here today to urge you to pass Senate Bill 208.

Extremists arguing against this commonsense legislation would like us to believe that private gun sales are always between responsible gun owners and a neighbor or friend they know well. If that was true, we wouldn't be here asking you to close this dangerous loophole.

To give everyone a little perspective about the loophole in federal gun safety laws we're trying to fix with this bill regarding private sales of long guns.... The Brady Bill passed in 1993, giving us the existing national framework for a criminal background check system. Think back to 1993—most of us here were probably just getting our very first email address. You've Got Mail, the Meg Ryan Tom Hanks rom com, which is now hilariously dated, was released in 1998, the same year the FBI launched the NICS background check system. A lot has changed since then.

Today, a private sale is more likely to look like someone browsing Armslist.com looking for unchecked firearms and meeting a stranger for 3 minutes in a parking lot to exchange guns for cash.

This isn't just about a "gun show loophole." The unfortunate fact is that the problem is bigger than that now. The internet has become one big gun show, allowing easy access to deadly firearms for people who couldn't pass a background check.

This legislation is overdue. I thank you for this early hearing and urge you to vote SB208 out of committee quickly.

We can't allow the clock to run out again this year.