

JoeyLynn Hough
2 Rick Michael Way
Brunswick, MD 21716
240-315-6229
Joeylynnh@comcast.net

February 5, 2020

SB 2018- Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions- Opposed

There is a preconceived notion that “You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out” or that Guns are dangerous.

It’s quite the opposite. If you are taught proper gun safety, guns are safe and fun to use.

I got my kids involved in 4-H Shooting Sports. It is a high-quality program that is based on education, recreation, competition, building life skills, promoting positive relationships with their peers and good sportsmanship.

Trap shooting is an amazing sport. One that commands mental toughness, personal responsibility, perseverance through wind, rain, blinding sun, and scorching heat.

I am a 4-H shotgun instructor. I had to take an extensive 30+ hours training and pass a written and a skills test. I have spent countless hours with Maryland youth as an assistant AIM coach at the Maryland State trap shoot and the Grand American Trap Shoot in Sparta, Illinois.

Academics, Integrity, Marksmanship (AIM) is the official youth shooting program of the Amateur Trap Shooting Association (ATA). The purpose of AIM is to provide a safe and positive experience with firearms for elementary school children through college.

The AIM program teaches sportsmanship and personal responsibility through competition making shooting sports a lifelong activity.

There are four age categories in the AIM program: Pre-Sub (11 and under), Sub-Junior (12-14), Junior (15-17), and Junior Gold (18-22).

I was adamant that my children learn to respect and properly use a gun. We teach our kids to lead by example. I reinforced that by taking the fourteen hour Hunter Safety course right alongside them.

The Hunter Safety course covers: hunter responsibility, firearms and ammunition, firearm handling and safety, marksmanship and shooting fundamentals, principles of wildlife management, bow hunting, muzzleloader hunting, tree stand safety, safety and first aid, water safety, and the legal requirements for hunting and transporting firearms in Maryland.

We had to pass a 50 question multiple choice test with a grade of 80 percent, demonstrate that we could safely handle a firearm in a field situation, and participate in live firing. I'm proud to say my kids and I passed and we received our Hunter Safety Certification!

My daughter Katelynn is a good shot. She took what she learned in Hunter Safety and Trap shooting and shot her first deer. She wouldn't have been able to kill her first deer if SB 208 was enacted because she had to borrowed a muzzle loader from a friend to shoot her first deer. Our family is enjoying the fruits of her labor, deer jerky and deer steak. Yum!

My kids and I have met some amazing people trap shooting. We met a one armed man, a guy with a cane, and my daughter's friend is blind in one eye, they all shoot trap competitively, along with countless others. We were inspired by many wonderful people.

When my kids began trap shooting they didn't own their own guns. Instead they relied on the 4-H club guns. They tried a multitude of different shot guns before they settled on a gun that fit them and that they liked.

Some of the reasons I didn't invest in buying guns for my kids right away is because guns are a financial investment. I had two kids in competitive trap shooting and I couldn't afford two shot guns at one time, I wanted to make sure the gun fit my kids in order for them to shoot properly, and guns are not a one size fits all, and guns are like clothes kids out grow them fast.

Once my kids found a shotgun that fit them and they were consistently breaking targets I bought my kids their trap shooting guns from other trap shooting families whose kids have outgrown their guns and moved on to other age categories in trap shooting.

My daughter, Katelynn, and I are also involved in the Tri-State Trap Shooting league.

My kids along with countless other kids wouldn't be enjoying Trap shooting without this amazing program.

Please consider the financial burden this will place on children and their families who want to enjoy the fun and amazing sport of Trap Shooting.

I have completed an extensive training to become a certified shotgun instructor, I have spent numerous days and hours assistant coaching in State and National youth shooting competitions,

Maryland 4-H Shooting Sports Involvement:

150 Trained Adult Volunteer Instructors

1540 youth involved in MD 4-H shooting sports clubs

650 youth involved in MD 4-H shooting sports special interest program

1400 youth experience shooting sports through 4-H camp experiences

15,000 4-H volunteer hours dedicated to

Shooting sports is an excellent sport for young people and as it written this bill would hamper the ability of young people who lack the means to purchase a firearm from a store to participate.

Please vote no on SB 208!

Respectfully,

JoeyLynn Hough

240-315-6229

Joeylynnh@comcast.net