

**Written Testimony**

**OPPOSE: Senate Bill 208 and House Bill 302**

**SUPPORT: Senate Bill 198**

Morgan Farmer  
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February 5th, 2020

Dear Maryland State Delegates and State Senators,

My name is Morgan Farmer, I'm 16 years old and I'm providing this written testimony to you in concern of my gun rights that are being threatened. I'm a volunteer at the New Market Volunteer Fire Company in Frederick MD. I'm also part of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office Explorers Post 1218 in hope of pursuing a career in Law Enforcement. I and 3 others are leaving Friday February 7th 2020 to head to Gatlinburg TN, to compete in scenarios based off of our skills and what we learned in the post.

I enjoy hunting and fishing but more importantly I love the opportunity of going with my friends and family. Not many have had the experience of being out in the woods and realizing how much fun it is. You are more appreciative when you are able to harvest a deer or turkey for thanksgiving if you hunt it yourself. It's not just about going out to find something to shoot either. It's about going out with the people you love or like to be with the most and enjoying the outdoors.

I'm a past president of the Frederick County Maryland 4-H Shooting Sports Club. 4-H for kids ages 8-18. My older brother and his friends were able to help reorganize the 4-H club when they were 16. He is now 24, running his own business and became a City Police Officer in Frederick. My dad is the club leader of our 4-H club and a 4-H shooting Sports firearms Instructor.

We have 6 disciplines in our club:

Pistol	Rifle
Shotgun	Muzzleloader
Archery	Hunter wildlife ID

In 4-H we always teach kids **GUN SAFETY** to the kids first. One of the main parts of gun safety we teach is "**M.A.T.**" **Muzzle, Action, Trigger**. You always keep the **Muzzle Pointed in a safe Direction**. You always keep the **Action open until you are ready to shoot**. You always keep your finger **OFF the trigger until you're ready to shoot**.

Most of the kids in our club are involved with Trap. It's a sport that we all love to do. Of course most of our kids in the club are younger than 18. You have to be 18 to own a long gun. So the only way we are able to shoot and compete in this sport is to use our parent's firearms. Sometimes we have to borrow a firearm or other equipment if or when something is wrong with ours.

Along with a couple others in the 4-H club, I've been shooting my whole life but at the age of 9 I started competing in local, State and National shotgun competitions representing Maryland in Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays. I and others my age have been very successful doing so. The biggest shoot we compete in is the ATA/AIM Grand. This year I will be traveling to Sparta, IL to compete in the ATA/AIM Grand Nationals for the 6th year in a row. For the past 7 years our club sent youth teams out to compete in this event and we were the first 4-H club not only from Frederick County, but from Maryland to participate at Sparta.

All of the kids in the 4-H club spend a lot of time fundraising to pay for travel fees and other shooting matches. At these matches we win awards and scholarships. Shooting is also an Olympic Sport.

If this law is passed, we would have to spend much of our hard earned money on gun transfers when all we need to do is **BORROW** a gun for either a match or to hunt. Most of our kids can't afford their own gun or equipment let alone spend money transferring guns back and forth. It would make it impossible for us to continue. Having a Shooting Sports club where these kids get the opportunity to learn the right way to use a firearm is very important to all of us. This keeps them from staying inside with their eyes locked in on game consoles, computers, or phones etc.

This sport is also a family sport. Just like other kids I know, I've been shooting with my dad from the start. Along with my older brother and my little brother (now 14 years old). This sport has brought us closer as a family and has done the same for others as well.

I also request you vote **NO** on House Bill 302.

When a bad incident occurs at a school, why should a legally armed citizen or staff member not have a way to protect themselves? The people that commit crimes at schools go unstoppable because no one is allowed to be able to physically stop them.

**Please vote AGAINST Senate Bill 208 and House Bill 302**  
**Please SUPPORT Senate Bill 198**

Thank you,

  
Morgan Farmer