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BILL NO.: SB 208

TITLE: Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions

SPONSOR: Senator Lee

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 5, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 208 – Public Safety - Rifles and Shotguns - Secondary Transactions. This bill requires background checks to be conducted anytime someone buys a rifle or shotgun, closing a loophole in State law that permits the private sale of long guns without background checks.

Communities nationwide continue to be traumatized on a daily basis as the most recent mass shooting takes more lives. The state of Maryland felt this pain in June of 2018, when a man with a shotgun walked into the Capital Gazette’s Annapolis office and killed five people.

HB 4 provides the opportunity for Maryland to create a consistent standard regarding how firearms are sold. Private sales of rifles and shotguns, like the weapon used in the Capital Gazette shooting, should not be exempt from the rules that apply to all handgun sales and long guns sold from licensed dealers. If this loophole is not closed, firearms will continue to fall into the hands of convicted felons and domestic abusers.

Elected officials at all levels of government have a responsibility to address gun violence. While no one change will end this epidemic, HB 4 has the potential to prevent the next mass shooting in Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests **FAVORABLE** report on SB 208. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.