

A Testimony In Opposition of Proposed Senate Bill (SB0208)

Hello, Assembled and Esteemed Senators. Let me begin by thanking you for your time and consideration for my written testimony. My name is Charles Collison, and I am a new homeowner on the Eastern Shore in Easton, and have been a firearms owner and enthusiast since early 2008.

Today, I come to speak out in opposition to the proposed bill, SB0208, which upon review appears to be a de-facto ban on private transfers between individuals without the assistance of an FFL. Notably, I'd like to primarily focus on the portion of the bill that allows for, and I quote, "authorizing a certain licensee to charge a reasonable fee for facilitating a certain transfer."

Casting aside my firm belief that this is a completely unnecessary infringement upon the right of the People to bear arms in common use - if you'll excuse my invocation of the Heller v DC case - I would hasten to point out that within the state of Maryland, transfer fees for several FFLs can often make or break a deal for low and middle income families and individuals. In my experience working alongside these families and individuals within and without Annapolis, these transfer fees can often mean the difference between putting dinner on the table, or having an effective means of defense in neighborhoods that might not have the same opportunities as others. Not to mention that, should this bill be introduced, said individuals and families would suffer both buying AND selling firearms for capital in the future, paying a premium for having the gall to attempt to follow law introduced after centuries of free trade.

I thank you for your time once again, and beg that you reconsider this bill - perhaps if not for the hundreds of legal gun owners currently protesting it, for the people that will be affected further down the line.