

Please **OPPOSE** SB 958  
Criminal Law – Untraceable Firearms

In a romantic relationship, a little bit of mystery is a good thing. This should be the same with the relationship between the citizens and their government. This year the MDGA wishes to make sure that government knows who is buying the guns via HB4/SB208 and then this bill, HB910/SB958 would prevent people from being home gunsmiths Thus insuring that government knows of all guns and who has them. Extreme caution should be taken before kicking out the pillars of freedoms that have existed for over 240 years in this country. Such huge societal changes can have a butterfly affect, causing ripples that will topple the dominoes in our lives in completely unforeseen ways. The results may be vastly opposite the desired goals. If the last 3.5 years have taught us anything, it is that ANYTHING is possible and that certain societal fail-safes need to remain in place now more than ever. Many of us have umbrella insurance policies. We pay gobs of money every year with the low expectation of ever really using it but still we do, just in case. I believe that standing firm against all of these bills is akin to paying our umbrella policy insurance bill because once we stop, you know that's when we'll need it the most!

I have seen, in person, people testing firearms they have built themselves and I'll tell you that for the amount of effort, frustration, and added cost (yes added), it sure doesn't seem worth it. Home gunsmithing is obviously just a hobby for talented machinists and tinkerers. It should not be placed on the "naughty hobby" list. You can always tell, at the range, that rare person testing a homemade firearm. They are the one who shoots once and then spends the next few minutes with tools, to include hammers, attempting to figure out what went wrong. One of the best quotes I've heard from such a person was "if I can get 500 shots through this thing it will eventually work reliably"; I found it hard not to show my doubt. At the rate he was going, he is probably still there! But you may say "but, but, but I saw this YouTube video". Yeah, and I watched a video demonstrating how to do a double back flip but you won't see me doing that anytime soon without dialing 911 first. If a criminal had the patients and skills to be a home gunsmith, they would most certainly be gainfully employed rather than being a criminal. We should be encouraging STEM work, not criminalizing it. If someone is talented enough at engineering and machinery to make something that explodes in their hand without killing themselves, America's STEM future is quite bright.

Lastly, I would like to say that with all the anti-firearm bills this year, gun owners are NOT your political enemies. We are your neighbors, safety conscience parents, dedicated public servants and members of your political party. Yes, we have a different culture, but it is one rooted in goodness, not criminality. Bills directed solely and squarely at the firearms community will not solve any of society's ills.

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