

Support HB356

Violent Firearms Offender Act of 2020

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2/4/2020

Last year a similar bill, HB236 (The Repeat Firearms Offender Act of 2019) came before this committee and I was shocked that it did not pass. How can you claim to be against “gun violence” and not support legislation that toughens up penalties for violent people who use guns?

One of the arguments against that bill had something to do with the substandard literacy level of those incarcerated. I fail to see how that has anything to do with keeping illegally armed violent people off the street. Baltimore City continually proves that they do not need to be able to read to pull a trigger. Hopefully they could learn to read in prison...they certainly are not going to on their own on the street. I think it would be of little comfort to the families whose lives have been ruined by violent criminals to know that their loved ones were killed by someone who could not read. They *might* be able to take some solace in knowing that that violent person is locked away where they cannot hurt anyone else. Who knows, maybe the next generation of future criminals might even have second thoughts about committing violent gun crime, if they knew they might actually do the time.

Not passing this legislation puts more violent criminals with guns on the street, where they are not getting the help they need to reform their own lives and destroying the lives and families of the innocent.

Can you look your constituents in the eye and say that you did not support taking violent criminals with guns off the street? What excuse could you possibly give for wanting more violent criminals with guns out on the street? Shame on all of you who opposed it last year. Shame on the Redshirts or anyone who *claims* to be against gun violence who does not support getting tougher on gun violence with this bill.

Show us that you are committed to ending gun violence and not just gun ownership by passing this bill. This is *common sense* legislation, that goes after the bad guys, for once!