

I am a lifelong Maryland resident. My information is as follows:

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I am writing you to express my opposition to a number of Gun-related Bills being presently proposed by the Maryland Legislature. These Bills will directly impact me personally as a Maryland Business Owner, Home Inspector, Head of Household/Father, Sportsman and Hunter, and as an American and Maryland citizen. Each of these Bills is an attack on my 2nd Amendment Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms that SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED. As representatives of the citizens of Maryland who have sworn an oath to protect the United States Constitution and the Maryland Constitution, you and all of the Delegates and Senators have a DUTY to defend the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution as required in the Maryland Constitution Article 2 that states that the Constitution of the United States "shall be the Supreme Law of the State". The Bills being proposed are in direct violation of Article 2 because each one of them is an infringement upon the citizens of Maryland as US citizens.

I OPPOSE the following: HB636/SB646 Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage Requirements

These Bills are ambiguous in their wording. I agree with safe handling and storage of firearms at all times and I personally practice this every day. However, the language in this Bill regarding "could gain access" can be literally an unlimited number of scenarios including situations where a minor purposely breaks into locked storage units. The majority of law-abiding gun owners already practice strict gun safety and storage and this law will only put us in jeopardy of breaking the law due to ambiguous and poorly written language. This will make criminals out of law-abiding citizens.

HB910/SB958 Criminal Law - Untraceable Firearms These Bills will also instantly make thousands of citizens instant criminals. Citizens who have abided by Federal Law and ATF rules will suddenly become outlaws. The United States has allowed law-abiding citizens the ability to manufacture/complete firearms for personal use as part of the 2nd Amendment Right to keep and bear arms, unincriminated. These Bills will be in conflict with Maryland Constitution Article 2 that states that Constitution of the United States "shall be the Supreme Law of the State".

HB1257/SB816 Public Safety - Licensed Firearms Dealers (Firearms Dealers' Safety Act)

These Bills will make it yet again much more difficult for me and others as law-abiding citizens of Maryland to lawfully obtain firearms. Not only will it cause some firearm dealers to potentially go out of business due to the high costs of this unnecessary burden, for those dealers that stay in business, it will translate into an unfair burden to those of us who lawfully purchase firearms as the price of the firearms we purchase in Maryland will undoubtedly increase due to this ridiculous requirement. Background checks both at the Federal and State levels and State-imposed "waiting periods" are already in place to prevent firearms from lawfully getting into the hands of criminals (as if criminals would even buy firearms through legal channels to begin with!). Enforce the laws already in place instead of creating new ones that make it harder for law-abiding citizens such as myself to exercise our Constitutional Rights. Criminals obtain firearms through illegal channels - so enforce the laws already in place and shut down those illegal channels!!

HB1078 Public Safety - Education - Firearm Funding (No Funding for Firearms Act)

As a man married to a public school teacher and father to children who are in the public school systems of Maryland, I am deeply offended that MY Government would propose Legislation to make it ILLEGAL for teachers to (voluntarily) receive training by their employers that could potentially save her/his life and the lives of students and others at our public education institutions. I have stated this already: Criminals do not abide by the Law! Criminals will continue to knowingly target "gun free" areas such as schools, etc. because they know that they immediately hold the advantage and will meet minimal, if any, opposition or resistance to their evil plans. Instead of this ridiculous legislation, how about you do the opposite and not only allow public funding of

training for teachers but let our teachers (those who wish to do so) protect lives and train them properly in the safe use of firearms and level the playing field against criminals! Most criminals are cowards and they will likely not target places where they know good citizens are armed, trained, and ready to defend against them. Stop trying to pass legislation that makes it easier and easier for the criminals to target the law-abiding. You think that you are solving the problem when in reality, you are stacking the odds in favor of the criminal instead! Is that what you really want to accomplish? Think about that.

HB591/HB1501 Public Safety – Lost or Stolen Regulated Firearm – Reporting There are already laws in place requiring us to report lost or stolen firearms. Lawfully, regulated firearms can only be approved for purchase by law-abiding citizens. Once again, this is an example of legislation that penalizes the law-abiding instead of the criminals.

HB1104 Public Safety - Regulated Firearms - Transfer There are already laws in place requiring us to follow specific procedures when transferring ownership of regulated firearms. Once again, lawfully, regulated firearms can only be approved for purchase by law-abiding citizens. Therefore, this another example of legislation that penalizes the law-abiding instead of the criminals by making it increasingly more difficult for LAW-ABIDING citizens to be able buy/sell firearms.

HB1261 Assault weapon copycat definition changes and registration This Bill is an absolute atrocity. Not only will it keep myself and my family from being able to lawfully purchase and own sporting rifles of specific types and kinds in the future, this Bill also intends to unfairly tax me and my family with ridiculous fees for "registration". We have purchased EVERY SINGLE FIREARM 100% LEGALLY and we have submitted the proper paperwork to both the Federal and State Governments as required, yet the State of Maryland says that is not sufficient??? This Bill is another direct attack on the law-abiding citizens and is quite blatantly another attempt to disarm the public and to offensively trample on our GUARANTEED 2nd Amendment US Constitutional Right to keep and bear arms that SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED. Once again I remind each one of our PUBLICLY ELECTED representatives of your oath to uphold both the United States and the Maryland Constitutions. Furthermore, I remind you all again that this Bill will be in conflict with Maryland Constitution Article 2 that states that Constitution of the United States "shall be the Supreme Law of the State". If passed, this Bill will also instantly turn thousands of law-abiding gun owners in the State of Maryland into instant criminals. The United States Constitution specifically prohibits **ex post facto laws**.

As a lifelong resident of Maryland I have watched with great shame and utter disappointment at our Legislature's ugly track record with previous gun "control" legislation and I continue to be disgusted that our elected officials ignore the GUARANTEED RIGHTS of Marylanders as UNITED STATES CITIZENS. Maryland residents are already one of the most infringed group of United States citizens when it comes to Gun Rights. You claim you are making Maryland safer, yet you have absolutely no proof that we are any safer. In fact the exact opposite is true! Baltimore is one of the highest crime centers in the entire country!!! You are bound by oath and you have a public duty to serve us and defend the Constitutions of Maryland and the USA. These ever-important documents are what make us FREE men and women, and these proposed Bills will directly erode that Liberty. The Bill of Rights is not the "Bill of Wants" or the "Bill of Needs" - it is a guarantee of the essential Rights that we have as citizens of this Country. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THESE RIGHTS is just as important as the others. Just as you would not consider legislation that would erode the Freedom of Speech, or the Freedom of Religion, or the Freedom of Assembly, or the Freedom of the Press, you should NOT consider legislation that will erode the Right to Bear Arms!

I am praying for all of you daily that you make sound decisions that are congruent with the Constitutions that you SWORE TO UPHOLD. May God be with you and guide you.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Smith