



NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

Headquarters: 11 Mile Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470-2359

400 N. Capitol Street NW, Suite 475, Washington, D.C. 20001

202-220-1340 ext. 205 tsantos@nssf.org

Trevor W. Santos

Director,

Government Relations - State Affairs

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The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
101 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**HOUSE BILL 914
SUPPORT**

Re: House Bill 914 - Gun Theft Felony Act of 2020

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and our industry members located throughout the state of Maryland, I write today to express our support for House Bill 914 (“HB 914”) by Delegate Beitzel. HB 914 will increase public safety and should be supported by all of those wishing to address violence throughout the state of Maryland. HB 914 would hold those accountable who steal firearms by ensuring they serve a certain amount of time for their actions. As introduced, this legislation states that someone convicted of theft of a firearm would be imprisoned for a minimum of 2 years, and no more than 5 years, for the first conviction, and for a second conviction, they would serve no less than 5 years, but no more than 10.

As the trade association for America’s firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”) seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 10,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Maryland sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland.

To help address the ongoing threat of stolen firearms, NSSF supports the passage of Delegate Beitzel’s House Bill 914. This legislation, which would strengthen criminal penalties for theft of a firearm and impose mandatory minimum sentences, would help deter criminals from becoming repeat offenders and would send a strong message to criminals engaged in this nefarious activity.

We would respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 914.

Sincerely,

Trevor W. Santos