

Testimony on behalf of Jeffrey S. Folk

IN SUPPORT OF:

HB968 – Regulated Firearms – Straw Purchases - Penalties

House Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2020

I am a citizen of Garrett County, a loving husband and caring father of two. I am writing today in SUPPORT OF HB968.

It is time for the House to inject reason and remove emotion when it comes to legislation impacting the civil rights of our citizens in Maryland. Year after year, bills are proposed that only tack on criminal penalties at the time of an arrest, yet they do nothing to deter or even stop criminals from committing crimes with a firearm. This piece of legislation does something to deter straw purchases by implementing mandatory sentences.

Please focus your time, energy and effort to punish true criminals who break the law and wish to cause others harm. If the goal is to make Maryland safer, this bill takes a step to remove violent criminals from the streets. If they are in prison, they can't commit violent crimes with a firearm.

It is for these reasons that I am in SUPPORT of HB968 and ask that the committee return a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Folk