

February 25, 2021

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing you this morning to urge you to oppose strongly oppose House Bill 175 (HB175). As a competitive shooter and avid hunter, this bill places an incredible burden on those of us who lawfully exercise our second amendment rights. Requiring a background check for the purchase of ammunition places a huge burden on myself as a consumer, the ammunition dealer, and the Maryland State Police. As a purchaser of ammunition, I find the premise of this bill insulting on its face.

I would urge you to demonstrate to your constituents what research shows that a background check on ammunition reduces violent crime. Requiring a background check to exercise a constitutionally guaranteed right that is so clearly stated, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States" is bound for a legal challenge that will cost the citizens of Maryland their tax dollars. A background check for ammunition would be antithetical to the founders of our country who made their ammunition in their own kitchens.

How does such a bill address the lack of enforcement of existing laws, and weak prosecution for felons found in possession of firearms daily in our cities?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

David Benson

497 Winding Creek Court

Davidsonville MD 21035