

Mr. Anibal Delgado
48798 Packer Court
Saint Inigoes, MD 20684

HB0175: Opposed

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My testimony regards HB0175, which proposes background checks on ammunition purchases. I am unequivocally opposed to this bill. Good legislation seeks to solve a specific problem. HB0175, however, is not an example of good lawmaking; rather, it is a shoddy solution in search of a problem.

To begin with, effective legislation should try to avoid criminalizing normal behavior. For example, it is normal to share or sell ammunition with family and friends. I do this regularly, as do many gun owners I know. This law would potentially make a criminal out of anyone who dares to do this.

Secondly, a well-written bill should be introduced in response to a proven need. If there were a solid link between ammunition purchases and violent crime, then perhaps this bill would be the solution. However, no such link exists.

Moreover, if the point of the bill is to keep ammunition from being used for violent ends, background checks are not the panacea for which you have been waiting. Maryland already has some of the most stringent firearms laws in the country, yet criminals are still able, with depressing regularity, to acquire weapons. Thinking that criminals will somehow be stymied by another background check is wishful thinking, at best.

Additionally, the law has far-reaching implications it fails to address. For example, the proposed bill does not mention the online sale of ammunition, which is a common way of buying ammunition. The internet has created a vast array of consumer choices, and I can often find ammunition online cheaper and easier than I can at a local gun store. Would this bill outlaw online ammunition sales?

Another topic this poorly written bill simply ignores is reloading. If you are unfamiliar, reloading is the practice of manufacturing ammunition using expended cartridges. I have several friends who are skilled at reloading, and sometimes they sell their reloaded ammunition to me. Will HB0175 outlaw this practice as well?

As a public school teacher, father, and husband, I urge you to oppose HB0175, which was clearly written with no regard for its own far-reaching implications for the citizens of our state.