

To the Members of the Judiciary committee,

I implore you to not move this bill further through the process and instead render it Dead on Arrival. I am writing to inform you that I stand in opposition to HB 175, a bill that would have a devastating impact on the right of individuals to be free of government monitoring, to keep and bear arms, and would place a substantial burden on existing government entities, systems, and would negatively impact small businesses across the state by impeding their ability to serve customers.

HB 175 requires that individuals purchasing ammunition submit to a federal background check. These checks use the NICS system, which is already known to be overburdened, and which has crashed in the past. By requiring background checks to be conducted for every ammunition purchase, HB 175 will only make a bad situation worse.

The second and more pertinent concern arising from HB 175 is its record-keeping requirement. If passed, this bill requires ammunition dealers to submit extensively detailed records of ammunition recipients to state police, while affording the Secretary the discretion to draft regulations which may result in indefinite retention of these records. In effect, this would result in a registry, raising obvious Fourth Amendment concerns.

HB 175 is economically harmful to both the State of Maryland and the federal government. It unnecessarily inhibits the ability of lawful firearms owners to acquire the implements required to exercise their rights under the Second Amendment, and it gives rise to privacy concerns and government surveillance. I therefore respectfully urge you to join us in opposing HB 175.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Cikanovich