

Letter of Information - HB425/SB387 - Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms
Position: Unfavorable

February 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

Thank you so much for allowing me the time to testify against SB387 today. My name is Ashley Dummitt and I am a senior Political Science major at Washington College. I am currently conducting my senior capstone on the constitutionality of the regulation of modern firearms technology, including homemade or 'untraceable' firearms.

SB387 is unconstitutional, as the right to construct one's own firearm is protected under the Second Amendment. With this said, this bill will not stop the self construction of firearms. Over 2/3 guns used in violent crimes in Baltimore are not purchased in Maryland. Considering that firearms themselves are being purchased from out of state, the kits needed to construct a homemade gun can also be mailed to an out of state address. The people that are purchasing guns out of state already are violating the law by doing so. Adding this extra barrier will not change anything and these frames will still remain just as accessible. There are already laws in place prohibiting minors, criminals, and other regulated groups from obtaining firearms, including homemade ones. If a member of these regulated communities comes in possession of one of these firearms, it is already illegal for it to be in their possession and they can and should be charged. The only people that will be affected by this bill will be law abiding citizens that would be at risk of becoming criminals for owning the same guns that are currently legal to own.

Another reason this bill is unconstitutional is that it changes the state's definition of firearm to include 'unfinished frame or receiver'. This does not make sense, as although these lowers may be 80% completed, what is not discussed is that these frames do not have a trigger, and are just a piece of metal without the other 20% of intricate detail being finished, which is extremely hard to do without proper machinery. Not to mention, these kits are extremely expensive and typically are over double the cost of the same firearm completed. For example, a standard Glock 43 frame including all of the parts required to assemble, all being single use, would cost roughly \$653.96, whereas the MSRP for the same gun in function, completed, would only be \$199. This information was acquired through looking up the cheapest option for each part required to assemble a functional Glock 43 from the kit sold on their website.

The argument that kids purchase, construct, and use these firearms is an overreach, as these firearms are an extremely excessive and impractical way to achieve their goals per the arguments previously stated. I am a resident of Kent County, and on Monday, a high school student was unfortunately injured in a stabbing incident at Kent County High School. In correlation with this data, a 2021 study from the FBI shows that more people were killed by hands, fists, and knives last year than firearms. If someone has malicious intent, this bill will not stop them from achieving their goal. I thank you for your time and respectfully urge an unfavorable report of SB387.

Kind Regards,

Ashley Dummitt, Student

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