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Opposition to SB0387

Who am I? I am a citizen in good standing in the state of Maryland. I am a business owner, an engineer by training, a sport shooter, a Glock-certified armorer, a veteran, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a hobbyist. I derive pleasure from building things. Building my own firearm brings me enjoyment. Pleasure and enjoyment are integral in my pursuit of happiness.

This bill threatens to make me a criminal and threatens my pursuit of happiness. Why? This bill would potentially criminalize my hobby unless I go through what likely will be a burdensome and expensive process. It seems capricious and unfair that a completely legitimate hobby become illegal when there is no evidence showing that my hobby harms others.

I understand that some people naïvely believe that adding a serial number and registering a firearm is somehow going to stop gun crimes, but they are pathetically mistaken. Criminals, by the very definition, are not going to comply with this or any other gun-control law—only non-criminals will comply but that is like setting a 25-mph speed limit for pedestrians.

If the real goal of this and other bills is to make Marylanders safer, then address the root cause of their hazard. Less than 1% of Maryland adults possess concealed carry permits (referred to as handgun permits). That creates a victim-rich environment (playground) for criminals. The areas of highest crime are those with the most restrictive gun laws. Why is that? Only recently did we see a victim in Maryland successfully defend himself from five armed car-jackers because, unexpectedly, he was armed himself. When criminals realize their potential victims can fight back, they will be less likely to commit the crime. THAT'S how you reduce crime.

This legislature should stop wasting resources promoting a victim mentality and work to empower the citizens of Maryland to be able to adequately and sufficiently defend themselves against criminals. Self-defense is more than a civil right, it is a moral OBLIGATION.

STOP villainizing gun ownership. STOP making law-abiding citizens into potential criminals. REMOVE barriers to legal concealed carry of a firearm. CREATE an atmosphere of empowerment. PROVIDE easy and affordable access to firearm safety training.

Thank you,
William Adams