

To the members of the Maryland Senate:

As lifelong resident of Baltimore City, having graduated from Baltimore City Public Schools, with family roots in our state going back to the 17th century, I must speak up in opposition to this deeply-flawed legislation.

Murder is a felony, armed robbery is a felony, being a prohibited possessor is also a felony. Concealed carry without a permit (that is impossible for the overwhelming majority of Marylanders to obtain) is a misdemeanor gun crime that bars the convicted from gun ownership for life. Citing the example used by AG Frosh, building dozens of Polymer80 receivers with the intent to sell is being in the business of selling firearms without a Federal Firearms License, which is also a felony at the federal level. Simply put, these are all already crimes.

If this were a law criminalizing possession of an unserialized firearm *while in commission of a crime*, it would fulfill the claimed public safety intent of the bill and likely draw little opposition from gun owners, myself included, however this is not the case.

Rather, this law will render thousands of Marylanders into felons for hobbyist gunsmithing that has been legal since before Maryland was a state, even those persons without any otherwise criminal intent.

This bill will do nothing to address violent crime here – homemade firearms are but a small minority of firearms seized in Baltimore, and this law will be ignored by those doing the shooting as the handgun permit requirements have been since 2013. I have been robbed at gunpoint working in the city more than once, in fact mostly after the 2013 legislation passed, and each time it has been a commercially-built, stolen firearm, not a model of the type built from a 3D print or 80% receiver.

Our city's decades-long crime epidemic is the result of endemic poverty, the lack of economic and educational opportunities in the city, and the ongoing War on Drugs against our communities. The latter could be partially alleviated with progressive legislators' veto-proof majority as other states have done but this has paradoxically been ignored in favor of feel-good bills such as the one proposed.

Guns – overwhelmingly stolen, commercially-built guns – will continue to flow into economically distressed parts of our state as long as those dire socioeconomic realities remain.

If this were a public safety bill and not a bill to criminalize all hobbyist gunsmiths, it would offer a legal process for hobbyists to continue to build and serialize their firearms as other states do, but it does not and the true intent of the bill remains clear.

In conclusion, and to reiterate, in no way can I as a private citizen support this bill as written.

-Joshua Bailey