

## **House Bill 425 (untraceable firearms) – OPPOSE**

Nicholas Andraka  
5725 Saint John's Chapel Rd.  
Owings, MD 20736  
410-286-3254

I strongly oppose HB 425 in its current form for many reasons:

- 1) The Bill has zero penalties for the repeat violent felon caught with an “un-serialized firearm”, that the bill’s sponsors and their allies claim are the problem being addressed with this bill.
- 2) The Bill would criminalize current lawful gun owners and the classification of a misdemeanor punishable by 3 years would strip lawful gun owners of their rights for life.
- 3) The Bill puts an undue burden on lawful gun owners, and sometimes an impossible burden as there is no avenue/system/law for an FFL to engrave a lawful gun owner’s firearm.

It is very clear that this proposed Bill was not designed to restrict or persuade the violent felon from obtaining and using an “un-serialized firearm” while committing a murder, robbery, or attack on police. Does anyone believe that the threat of a misdemeanor charge added to multiple felonies would deter them??

The Bill would make many thousands of lawful gun owners’ criminals and strip them of their right to own firearms. There is no avenue where MD FFL dealers can/will engrave serial numbers on firearms. And in many (most?) cases, the lawful hobbyist builder has ALLREADY engraved their firearm themselves, making it impossible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to engrave that firearm.

It is curious that those putting this bill forward and supporting it,, are the very people that have supported legislation that REDUCES penalties for violent felons who use firearms in crimes, supported legislation that enables lawlessness, And put violent felons back into communities, then turning around and using those crime statistics to push legislation that restricts LAWFUL, productive gun owners?

I would support this legislation if the following changes were made:

- 1) Allow the private builder to engrave their own firearm, as many have already when they built them.
- 2) Reduce the penalty for possession to a civil charge, in a case where it is not used in a crime, but just an otherwise lawful gun owner in possession.
- 3) Add a penalty of 10-20 years for possession by a restricted person using an un-sterilized firearm in the commission of a felony.

This legislation in its current form, does not even pretend to address the use of un-serialized firearms in violent crime, but is clearly intended to “criminalize” lawful gun owners in the state of Maryland,  
Therefore I OPPOSE HB425.

Nicholas Andraka.