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Testimony of Jon C. Munson II
Maryland General Assembly
House Judiciary Committee

HB1021 - UNFAVORABLE

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Regarding HB1021 Public Safety – Licensed Firearms Dealers – Security Requirements, I OPPOSE this bill.

Anyone dealing in high-value items, and in particular dangerous items, knows well the need to secure and protect those items. Firearms dealers already implement many rigorous security measures to protect their goods – enhanced security on their stores, including stronger entrance/exit reinforcements, safety locks on firearms, etc., to prevent unwanted theft. They must also undergo frequent inspections by authorities to ensure compliance with any regulations imposed by licensing.

Further hardening of firearms dealers' locations would require the cooperation of third parties, and those parties may be averse to any structural changes this bill would require. The expense of such hardening would likely be cost-prohibitive to any dealers.

Private collectors would have the most difficult time in attempting to comply with these intended regulations. Licensed dealers with a location would also experience an increased burden in labor costs complying with the off-hours "storage" requirements within this bill, and if they do not have the ability to create a "safe room", further physical costs in hardening the premises if practicable.

I believe the bill is also unconstitutional – citizens choosing to exercise their rights also have access to adjacent rights necessary to enjoy the root rights. Given that the right to keep and bear arms is explicitly stated in the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution, and Maryland has acknowledged that said Constitution is the "supreme law of the land", it is more than reasonable that the right to acquire such arms exists, thus implying that purchasing and selling of arms is protected by extension. Introducing a ridiculous burden, such as this bill intends, is clearly an infringement upon the right enshrined in the 2nd Amendment.

As this bill will likely be cost-prohibitive to many firearms dealers/collectors (driving them out of business and/or out-of-state, and perhaps creating instant criminals in the case of private collectors), be non-implementable due to third-party concerns or regulations, it seems there is

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only a political, not practical, motive behind the introduction of this bill and its text. The bill seems incredibly vague in its terminology and to whom it might apply.

I request you return an UNFAVORABLE opinion.

Sincerely,

//s// Jon C. Munson II