

HB0425 Oppose

Good Afternoon Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I oppose this legislation because it is an infringement on the rights of law abiding citizens requiring them to alter privately and legally owned items that they have manufactured utilizing their artistic talents that are never meant for distribution to other persons. Meaning that items I built with my dad (now deceased) as a child would be banned unless I ruin it's esthetic as an authentic replica by attaching a mark that is not relevant to the period, then If I choose not to do this under this legislation I would be jailed for electing to not destroy a piece of art that I created with my father that has become a family heirloom.

This legislation would in theory make every wooden 2 x 4, 4 x 8, chunk of plastic, or plastic cabling for sale at home depot a regulated or illegal purchase because I "could" whittle it or melt it down and make it into a stock or frame able to receive the upper mechanics of a firearm.

They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If I am the beholder then I interpret this legislation to be an infringement on my artistic rights to create pieces of art that are appreciated by antique collectors, woodworking art enthusiasts, metal workers and smelters. These new provisions, if enacted, would burden and penalize a harmless activity that has been perfectly legal under federal and state law for the entire history of the United States. You would be criminalizing a time honored craft of our American Heritage.

This bill would also make it illegal for me to purchase or re-manufacture replacement parts for firearms that I already legally own, if there should be a malfunction or should they sustain damage in any way.

Nothing in all the bans imposed by this bill would or could actually stop any criminal or disqualified person from acquiring all the hardware necessary to make his own gun, including the 80% lower, simply by driving to another state. A disqualified person or criminal would not be deterred by the bill because such a disqualified person is already precluded by Federal law from possessing any firearm or ammunition of any type. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).

By the way, last time I checked killing someone with any weapon is already against the law. If you really want to make a dent in the criminal activity occurring on the streets of Baltimore and the surrounding municipalities. Try giving our Law Enforcement Officers back the ability to do their jobs. Lay the responsibility for the crimes happening in our state as we speak back at the foot of those who are perpetuating the crime and prosecute those persons committing them. Stop trying to criminalize lawful citizens.

Thank you for reading my testimony and I urge you to respond with an unfavorable report.

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