

# Worcester County Sheriff's Office

*Matthew Crisafulli*  
Sheriff



*Douglas Dods*  
Chief Deputy

Sheriff Matthew Crisafulli  
1 West Market Street, Room 1001  
Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

February 7, 2022

**Re: House Bill 425**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I am sending this letter to you today in opposition of House Bill 425, which would change the requirements for firearm owners and would cause otherwise law-abiding residents of our state into criminals, if this bill passes. As the Sheriff of Worcester County, I believe it is the right of all law-abiding citizens to own firearms and this bill will have serious negative consequences for gun owners in the State of Maryland.

The overwhelming majority of individuals who choose to build their own firearms, do so as a legal and constitutionally protected activity. This bill demonstrates to our constituents that there is an effort by the legislature to fight crime, however it does not address what really needs to occur to reduce crime in our state; enforcing existing gun laws, prosecuting violators of those laws and incarcerating those convicted of violating the existing gun laws.

Thousands of people each year in major cities lose their lives due to rising crime and the lack of effective prosecution. Criminals will always find ways to perpetrate their crimes, when they are being emboldened by the policies of some prosecutors who refuse to hold them accountable. These are areas that need to be addressed, if we are serious about bringing down crime numbers and saving lives.

Criminals will continue to use firearms, and weapons of opportunity to commit their heinous acts. We must not punish our law-abiding citizens for acts committed by those with criminal intentions. Individuals who do not comply with our current gun laws must be held accountable by prosecutors for us to see a decrease in crime statistics. This is the problem we should be addressing with legislation and accountability in our criminal justice system in Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Crisafulli".

Matthew Crisafulli  
Sheriff, Worcester County, Maryland