

Testimony of Ashley Colburn in opposition of:  
House Bill 425 (HB0425): Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms

Submitted by:  
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Dear Speaker, Delegate Lopez, and honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Colburn, and I live in Middletown, MD (21769). I do not represent any organization. I am providing my written testimony in *opposition* to House Bill 425. This bill would directly and negatively affect me. I am a hobbyist, who has been building firearms for the past three years. My hobby includes both 3D printing and machining legal firearms for my own use. I do not, and legally cannot, distribute or sell my home built firearms. I would like to dispel the myths that are being pushed by Attorney General Brian Frosh.

AG Frosh said, “All you need is a Dremel tool and a YouTube video, and... in an hour, or even less, you can have a functional handgun.”<sup>1</sup> This is not true. Whether a person is 3D printing or machining a firearm, it requires extensive knowledge and expertise, expensive computers, software and tools, and hundreds of hours of building and testing the firearm. Even with the proliferation of information on the internet and the availability of parts kits, the average person does not possess the tools or knowledge to complete a home build firearm. It is easier for a criminal to acquire a firearm from a friend or family member than it is for them to spend thousands of dollars on acquiring the equipment needed and hundreds of hours to build and test a home built firearm.

This bill would, in essence, make home built firearms illegal in Maryland. The Gun Control Act of 1968 has formally recognized Americans’ right to build firearms for personal use and not for the purpose of selling or distributing. A federal firearms license holder, specifically Type 07 FFL – Manufacturer of Firearms & Ammunition, cannot legally provide a federal serial number on unfinished receivers, because it does not meet the federal definition of a firearm; nor can they provide a serial number for finished firearms made by non-FFL-holding citizens, because the FFL manufacturer did not build the firearm. It would also make it illegal to purchase or own a parts kit for replacing damaged parts for a firearm purchased from an FFL dealer. This would prevent gun owners from repairing their firearms, and that is unacceptable from a gun safety perspective.

This bill would affectively turn lawful Maryland citizens into criminals for practicing their federally-protected rights.

I urge you to vote against House Bill 425, because it does little to address issues surrounding public safety and it disproportionately affects lawful gun owners and hobbyists.

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<sup>1</sup> *Maryland leaders advocate for legislation banning ghost guns.* (n.d.). wusa9.com. <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/maryland/ghost-gun-legislation-maryland-ban-attorney-general-frosh/65-98395548-6a72-482a-8ca9-2f7d074cd4d0>

Thank you for your consideration,

Ashley Colburn