



**Testimony of the Rockville Mayor and Council  
SUPPORT  
HB 425 – Public Safety – Untraceable Firearms  
February 16, 2022**

The Mayor and Council of Rockville thank Chairman Clippinger and the members of the House Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to provide our perspective on HB 425. We are grateful to Delegate Lopez sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council strongly support HB 425. The legislation would prohibit the sale, receipt, and transfer of unfinished frames or receivers that do not have serial numbers. These weapons, known as “ghost guns,” can be easily purchased on the internet without a background check, and are being used more frequently. These weapons are largely untraceable because they lack a serial number, which makes it much more difficult for law enforcement to bring to justice those who use “ghost guns” to commit crimes.

The recent shooting of a fifteen-year-old student at Magruder High School in Montgomery County is a shocking tragedy that should have never happened. The seventeen-year-old student who committed the crime purchased the “ghost gun” on the internet. This incident underscores the danger that these weapons bring to our children and the broader community. In Rockville, the City Police have already recovered three “ghost guns” in 2022.

HB 425 is essential because it would prevent the ability of those who are prohibited by law to possess guns, to circumvent the required background check process, and obtain a firearm. Additionally, Rockville supports the Bill’s penalties of a \$10,000 fine, three years of prison, or both. These are necessary deterrents to stem the use of these dangerous weapons.

HB 425 aligns with Rockville’s highest priority, which is to protect the health and safety of our entire community. We must keep these untraceable and easily accessible weapons out of the hands of those who wish to use them for harm. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 425 with a favorable report and forward the legislation to the full House for a vote as soon as possible.