

My name is Brett Gerhart and I live at 4972 Leonardtown Road Waldorf Maryland. I am an avid outdoorsman and I am writing to you this evening because this bill is in direct violation of our 2nd Amendment rights. I am also looking ahead into the future and I want to protect our children's rights. With me being an educator I hope you will hear the term law-abiding citizen enough times from those who are speaking or writing, to become familiar with its definition. I also hope you can discern between the difference of a law-abiding citizen and a criminal. I think that you will agree that our current cultural climate has been extremely confused about a lot of things including our 2nd amendment rights.

The government's push for Common sense gun reform that includes limiting magazine capacity, and "AR" rifle bans is anything but a common sense solution. Now our state is wanting to follow the ideocracy of this solution which will simply take the rights away from law-abiding citizens. The fact is that it would be a foothold to bring forth more and strict reform. These laws will never limit the criminal's ability and intentions however they will always restrict the law-abiding citizen to protect themselves and those they care about.

Applying laws that reduce magazine capacities, eliminating AR platforms, making it illegal for a law-abiding citizen to purchase a specific gun or to limit magazine capacity, is just as ignorant as limiting where we can appropriately protect ourselves by carrying a firearm. If the criminal wants to cause harm they will. You will never stop a criminal with ill intent with gun-free zone signs and any law that limits the 2nd amendment for law-abiding citizens.

I lawfully obtained my wear and carry permit in October of 2022 so I could appropriately protect my family, my business and any persons that are subjected to a threat of their life by someone wishing to cause them harm. There was a directive that said I could not be in possession of a firearm for tonight's meeting. If I were in attendance so I would obey because I consider myself a law-abiding citizen. Do you think a criminal would do the same? If someone wanted to cause any of you in this room harm right now they would find a way that I'm sure would be deemed illegal. Again, if I were in attendance I would be at a disadvantage if I wanted to protect any of you and myself, but you better believe that I would try. Here is the main issue, none of this will apply to the criminal and you do not really want it to because the agenda is so obvious. The government, in conjunction with the State of Maryland, wants to take the law-abiding citizens rights away so they can be the ones with all of the power. Read the second amendment and it will all make sense. Please consider removing this obviously ignorant and thoughtless bill that is simply another power grab which will breed more severe restrictions in the future.