

Montgomery County. The legislation is aimed at law abiding citizens of the state, instead of going after those that illegally own and carry handguns and commit crimes with these illegal handguns. Rather than attack the law abiding citizens right to bear arms, the penalties for illegally possessing and using handguns in the commission of crimes should be addressed and increased. The 12 year old that shot two adults passing by with a pellet gun (illegal to own in Baltimore City by the way) was not even prosecuted at all as the child was under the age of 13. This occurred mere blocks from the headquarters of Baltimore City Police. The child and his/her parents should be held responsible for this attack. The then 14 year old that shot and killed Mr. Reynolds had to have gotten the handgun from someone. That person should also be prosecuted, not just the teen that did the actual shooting.

While I understand the need for gun control legislation, this legislation takes gun control way too far. By the way, on January 29, a judge has temporarily blocked a very similar law in New Jersey. To approve this legislation here in Maryland could prove to be just as futile. Similar legislation that was passed and enacted in Montgomery County could just as easily be overturned as lawsuits have already been filed requesting the law to be declared unconstitutional. An injunction has also been requested. The responsible law abiding adult should not be prevented from exercising his or her 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights to own and carry firearms. I pray you strengthen crime laws and mandatory sentencing for violent crimes and stop coddling criminals, whether juveniles or adults. Please do not punish the law abiding citizens of this state because of those committing violent crimes with illegal handguns. Handguns do not kill on their own. People kill, using whatever means at hand, be it a handgun, rifle, AR15, knife or some other means. Responsible handgun owners should not be punished because of what others do. I therefore oppose this legislation.

Thank you for listening.

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