

Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to SB112  
(Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2023)

Frankly, I do not fully understand the purpose of this bill. Firearms dealers are already heavily regulated by both the Maryland State Police and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. In fact, dealers are so closely monitored by both of these agencies, that, should something “slip through the cracks,” the regulating agencies ought to share some of the liability.

“Straw Purchases” and “Trafficking” are already quite illegal, and dealers are penalized for it. There have been previous efforts to increase enforcement and penalties for the other side: those who chose to commit straw purchases. Unfortunately, those bills never seem to get passed.

A lot of the language seems overreaching or vague. Walmart sells “firearm accessories.” Are they going to be held accountable for illegal use of their products?

The gun problem is not dealers, Walmart or even guns. Just like drugs, alcohol, unhealthy food and fast motorcycles, the problem is bad people who misuse them.

Go after the bad guys for once!

I urge an unfavorable report on this bill.

Art Novotny  
Aberdeen, MD  
35A