



January 30, 2023

House Judiciary Committee,
Chairman, Luke Clippinger

**Support of HB 159 - Criminal Procedure - Warrantless Arrest - Straw
Purchase Participant**

Attention Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon and members of the committee

On behalf of the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, we strongly support the passage of House Bill 159 – Criminal Procedures for Warrantless Arrests of those making straw purchases.

As I am sure you are aware, my office has been laser-focused on trying to tackle the issue of guns as it relates to the illegal carrying, transportation and/or purchasing of these weapons, which often times leads to fatal and non-fatal shootings.

One such issue of course is that of ghost guns and straw purchases, which has become an increasing problem across the State of Maryland, as they are reported to be attributable to more than 25% of the weapons used in attempted murder and homicides.

In fact, the issue of straw purchasing was the main factor behind one of Baltimore City's most notorious killers, Nathaniel Dawson Jr., who purchased firearms bought for him by a 39-year old working mother who used the \$500 he paid her to purchase \$6,000 worth of firearms, to help feed her family. However, what she didn't realize was that Mr. Dawson would use those weapons to help run a murderous drug ring in East Baltimore and wind up murdering a 10-year old child.

Delegate Dalya Attar's insight on this issue is spot on and we think that any legislation that seeks to prevent the proliferation of illegal firearms onto our streets is something worthy of your support. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we urge a favorable vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan J. Bates".

Ivan J. Bates, Esq.
State's Attorney for Baltimore City