



TESTIMONY FOR HB0794

Regulated Firearms - Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Process

Bill Sponsors: Delegates Moon, Ebersole, and J. Lewis

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0794 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

A Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry would allow a person to voluntarily enroll for the purpose of being prohibited from obtaining a regulated firearm. A voluntary registry provides an individualized approach to firearm safety, allowing people to take proactive steps to protect themselves and others without infringing on broader gun rights.

This legislation may keep guns away from those contemplating a mass shooting. It also helps with suicide prevention. Suicides comprise nearly two-thirds of all firearm deaths in the United States, with firearm suicides outnumbering firearm homicides two to one. This proactive step helps reduce the risk of impulsive gun suicides. The goal is to protect both the individual and their loved ones from firearm injury or suicide.

Our members believe firmly in common sense gun legislation, as do most gun owners and the majority of residents in Maryland. We have a lot of solid, common-sense laws on the books, but like many states, we continue to see gun deaths by people who should never, ever have access to a gun, especially those that may be depressed or suicidal.

People that know they shouldn't own a gun should be accommodated by the state.

Our members think this legislation is long overdue and should be passed as quickly as possible. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.