



February 21, 2025

RE: Opposition for House Bill 308: Criminal Law—Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition—Retired Law Enforcement Officials since

Dear Chairman Clippenger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of March for Our Lives, a youth-led movement dedicated to eliminating the epidemic of gun violence through civic engagement and direct action, I urge you to oppose **HB 308: Criminal Law—Exception to Armed Trespass Prohibition—Retired Law Enforcement Officials**. This bill would create an exception under *Article - Criminal Law § 6-411*, allowing retired law enforcement officers from any U.S. state who retired in good standing to enter private property with a firearm—without the knowledge or consent of the property owner.

This legislation poses a significant risk to public safety and property rights. Private property owners should retain the authority to determine whether firearms are permitted on their premises. Allowing an exception for retired law enforcement—especially those from outside Maryland—undermines this fundamental right and sets a dangerous precedent for further carve-outs that weaken firearm restrictions.

Additionally, increasing the presence of firearms in our communities does not make us safer. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, “Nine times as many people report being victimized by a person with a gun than being protected by one.” This bill does not address public safety concerns but instead creates unnecessary legal loopholes that could endanger residents.

Rather than expanding access to firearms in sensitive spaces, our communities are calling for continued investments in proven violence intervention programs. We urge you to oppose HB 308 and prioritize policies that promote true public safety.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Cobb

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