

Walter Frear

Bill - SB816

I OPPOSE THIS LEGISLATION

My name is Walt Frear, and I live with my wife and 3 young children in southern Frederick County Maryland. I am a licensed firearms dealer, and owner/operator of a custom gunsmithing practice. I have been working full time as professional gunsmith in Maryland for over 22 years after graduating from the Colorado School of Trades gunsmithing program. I have called Maryland my home my entire life, with the exception of when I was away at school, and when I served in the military. My wife is the owner/operator of a successful CPA accounting practice here in Maryland, and we are both deeply invested in our kid's schools, church, and well established in our community. We live in a small town neighboring the town my wife and I grew up in. My 3 year old son and I get haircuts at the same barber where I got my first haircut with my dad when I was 3. We live 10 minutes from my wife's sister and her family, and our kids are able to grow up playing together. We also live around the corner from grandparents who have a close bond with our kids. Living local allows us to share these special memories and more with them. However, if this legislation becomes law, we will be faced with the decision: do we give up a lifestyle we spent 2+ decades building together and start over in another state, or do I give up the skills I spent a lifetime developing and find a new line of work? (One heck of a decision to make given that we have done nothing wrong...). Honestly, most of my clients won't want to be under the intense surveillance this legislation requires simply to have their lawfully owned private property repaired; nor will they be willing to pay the increased costs that complying will bring. Many clients will simply travel to neighboring states to have their firearms repaired, or mail them to an out-of-state gunsmith; both of which are beyond the reach of this legislation.

I believe this law, like most new gun laws have very little to do with Public Safety and everything to do with politicians trying to punish their political opponents. The people of Maryland deserve better!... Maryland should be a place where traditions are valued, neighbors with different opinions are respected, and friendship is more important than politics...

I oppose this legislation and I respectfully request an unfavorable report.