

HB0004

01/15/20

Testimony on behalf of Jeffrey S. Folk

IN OPPOSITION TO:

HB4 – Public Safety – Rifles and Shotguns – Secondary Transactions

Judiciary

January, 15. 2020

I am a citizen of rural Western Maryland, a loving husband and caring father of two. I am writing today in OPPOSITION of HB4.

The broad set of restrictions defining what is considered a transfer, will almost certainly turn law-abiding citizens into instant criminals. Here in the Western part of the state, we frequently loan firearms to friends and family members to hunt or target practice with. This bill would turn those loans into required transfers. What purpose would this serve to reduce violence in Maryland? Western MD by far has the highest per capita firearms ownership in any part of the state. Yet we have the lowest murder rate and use of firearms in crimes, anywhere in the state. The irrational fear and gun grabbing for the sake of “public safety” needs to stop.

Maybe if our legislators, focused their efforts on criminals, who are given reduced sentences in firearms related crimes, and pushed for more severe criminal sentencing, you could leave those of us alone, who don't commit crimes or break the law. Time and again, I read about murders in Baltimore and when I look more closely at those who have been found guilty of murder, they have a previous history of committing crimes with firearms. So maybe just maybe, we should be looking at the root of the violent crimes in this state as a morality problem. And put those immoral criminals in jail. And keep them there.

In closing, I oppose this bill. I will not comply if this bill passes and I would like to see the Legislators try to enforce this bill if it becomes law. I don't commit crimes with the law not being passed, and if passed, I will continue to loan firearms to each other, and still not commit crimes (unless you consider not complying with an unconstitutional bill a crime).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Folk