

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

TESTIMONY OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

January 15, 2020

RE: House Bill 4 Oppose

Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

Banning private firearm transfers does not stop criminals.

This legislation criminalizes private transfers of rifles and shotguns in Maryland, thus infringing our rights as citizens while doing nothing to promote public safety. The National Rifle Association of American (NRA) strongly opposes these overreaching restrictions on the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves and their families.

The idea that criminals will change their behavior based on the passage of this new restriction is a fool's errand at best. Banning private transfers does not stop criminals from stealing firearms, getting them on the black market, or through straw purchases. U.S. Department of Justice data supports this reality, which I am more than happy to provide to members of the committee if asked FBI data shows that long guns are rarely used in crime. In fact, rifles are used in less than 3 percent of homicides, which is much less than blunt objects, sharp objects or bodily force.

Members of the Committee might be surprised to learn that a study right out of Johns Hopkins and UC Davis, published in November of 2018 in the *Annals of Epidemiology*, showed that so-called "universal" background checks had no impact on California's homicide or suicide rate over a 10-year period. Let me be clear, that is not the NRA's conclusion, it is from the researchers themselves. Researchers, I might add, who have not been shy about their preference for restrictive gun control policies over many years of work. With this in mind, NRA recommends that this committee and the legislature focus on policies that have been proven to promote public safety instead of restricting the rights of the law-abiding in the name of reducing crime.

Sincerely,

David Weber
NRA-ILA

