

Written Testimony of Cindy Camp
SUPPORT HB 4

TO: Chair Luke Clippinger, Vice-Chair Vanessa Atterbeary, and Members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Cindy Camp, Baltimore, MD (District 43)

DATE: January 15, 2020

Hello, my name is Cindy Camp. I live in Baltimore, MD, and am a volunteer leader with the Baltimore City Local Group of Moms Demand Action. I'm also a mother, a grandmother, and I support HB4.

When it comes to the issue of gun violence prevention, there's a lot of misinformation. Specifically, with this legislation, we've been hearing a lot of falsehoods. While we're all entitled to our own opinions, we're not entitled to our own facts. So, in an effort to correct the record, we drafted some "mythbusters," which volunteers from across the state will share with you today.

HB4 MYTH #1: There is no such thing as a background check loophole.

FACT: While all firearms sold by federally licensed dealers are subject to a background check, federal law and most states don't require a criminal background check on gun sales by unlicensed private sellers.

Maryland law requires a criminal background check for handgun sales, regardless how they're purchased, but not for private long gun sales. Felons, domestic abusers, and others legally prohibited from possessing firearms can easily get a rifle or shotgun by buying it from an unlicensed seller—including strangers met online or at gun shows—with no background check and no questions asked. Currently, 15 states (+ DC) require background checks for *all* rifle and shotgun sales.

It's time for Maryland to join them. Thank you for your time.