

**Written Testimony of Maria Matiella**  
**SUPPORT HB 4**

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

FROM: Maria Matiella, Davidsonville, MD (District 30B)

DATE: January 15, 2020

Hello, my name is Maria Matiella. I live in Davidsonville, MD. I'm a volunteer with the Anne Arundel Local Group of the Maryland Chapter of Moms Demand Action. I'm also a survivor of gun violence and a gun owner. I support HB4.

*HB4 MYTH #3: Background checks are a terrible burden on law-abiding gun owners.*

**FACT: Background checks keep guns away from people who are legally prohibited from possessing them.**

Responsible gun owners know that with all freedoms come responsibilities, and they are willing to go through the simple process of having dealers conduct a background check in order to keep guns away from people who Maryland and federal law prohibit from having them. Requiring a criminal background check before selling a shotgun or rifle isn't onerous. All Marylanders—100%—live within 10 miles of a licensed gun dealer, and the checks generally take about 20 minutes to complete.