



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Judiciary

Testimony on: HB1201 - Public Safety - Untraceable Firearms

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 1, 2021

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Marlon Amprey

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grassroots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy in a safe environment. DTMG strongly supports HB0638 because it will improve public safety by making sure that all guns in Maryland are traceable by their serial numbers,

Ghost guns -- guns made from parts without a traceable serial number -- are the fastest growing gun safety problem facing our country today. There is no serial number, so the guns cannot be traced, thwarting the ability of law enforcement to close cases, arrest criminals, and bring justice to survivors of gun violence. The need for clear, comprehensive, and effective regulation for ghost guns has never been greater.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought an unprecedented spike in gun sales. Montgomery County has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of ghost guns on our streets. "Our total number for 2020 was 73 recovered ghost guns within our community... We have recovered a total of 25 ghost guns in previous years," Police Chief Marcus Jones said. "So as you see, this trend is truly heading up."¹

HB1291 is long overdue common-sense legislation that will assist law enforcement and protect our citizens. The bill will prohibit manufacture, assembly, possession, sale, transfer, purchase or receipt of a firearm or an unfinished frame or receiver that is not imprinted with a serial number issued by a federally licensed firearms manufacturer or federally licensed firearms

¹ <https://www.localdvm.com/news/maryland/montgomery-county-to-introduce-bill-restricting-untraceable-ghost-guns/>

importer in compliance with all federal laws and regulations regulating the manufacture and import of firearms. HB1291 has teeth, since it includes penalties and fines for each violation.

There is an important racial equity element in this legislation that should not be ignored. Communities of color are disproportionately affected by gun violence. The more we can do to keep make all firearms in our communities traceable, the safer all communities, particularly communities of color, will be.

DoTheMostGood is eager to work with Delegate Amprey to ensure passage of this important legislation that can help restore safety and peace of mind to Montgomery County and across the state of Maryland. Therefore, **we urge a favorable report on HB1291.**

Respectfully submitted,

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