

Mr. Anibal Delgado
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HB0638: Opposed

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My testimony regards HB0638, which proposes new regulations on “untraceable and undetectable” firearms. I am unequivocally opposed to this bill.

This bill will amount to a backdoor tax on people seeking to own a firearm. Since manufacturing a weapon yourself does not require a HQL or transfer fees associated with a gun store, the prospective gun owner is able to save money. Additionally, building a firearm piece by piece allows a prospective owner to gradually buy the parts over time, instead of a significant one-time financial burden.

This financial burden may be a small matter for some, but as a public school teacher, husband, and father, every dollar counts to me. New gun regulations disproportionately affect lower-income populations, which tend to be people of color. In other words, new laws usually do nothing but serve to keep minority groups disarmed and unable to practice their constitutional rights. Although not intentional, this is de facto racism.

My parents grew up in Puerto Rico at a time when legal gun ownership was nearly impossible. If you owned a gun on the island at that time, you were probably either a police officer or a criminal. I grew up in Maryland, however, and I appreciate the freedoms afforded to me as a resident of this state.

This is why I find additional gun regulation so abhorrent: it is a tacit admission that my own representatives do not trust me and view me not as a citizen, but as a potential danger. As a holder of a Maryland HQL, my fingerprints are on file with Maryland State Police. I am in compliance with all current firearms laws. I am not unique among Maryland gun owners in this regard; in fact, I would say I am representative of the norm in this group.

If you truly respect the rights of Maryland residents, no matter their race or income level, you will oppose this bill. Thank you.