



CAROLINE COUNTY
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CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT
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109 Market Street, Room 123
Denton, Maryland 21629

Senate Bill 86

Rifles and Shotguns – Possession – Age Requirement (Raise the Age Act of 2023)

Position: **OPPOSE**

Date: February 7, 2023

To: Judicial Proceedings

The Caroline County Commissioners **OPPOSE** SB 86, Rifles and Shotguns – Possession – Age Requirement (Raise the Age Act of 2023). Caroline County is a proud agricultural community that has a rich history of hunting, like most rural places in Maryland. SB86 will make that tradition more burdensome and discourage the tradition of hunting in Maryland.

The Commissioners are disappointed in the fact that a study or task force has not been implemented to provide data on the number of violent crimes committed with rifles and/or shotguns in Maryland by individuals under the age of 21, compared to those 21 years and older. This information would provide the data to prove or disprove the theory that less violent crimes will occur within the State of Maryland with a rifle or shotgun if the age to purchase a rifle, shotgun, or ammunition is raised to 21.

The State of Maryland will implement task forces and studies in many matters relating to proposed legislative changes. Such a contested piece of legislation should first be studied in a non-partisan manor. With this, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 86.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding
President
Caroline County Commissioners