

Nicholas DeTello

SB0086 - Age Requirement (Raise the Age Act of 2023)

Unfavorable

2/6/2023

As a Maryland constituent, I am concerned with the viability as well as the effects caused by SB0086. As written, this bill would imprison otherwise law-abiding 18–20-year-olds for 5 years, with up to \$10,000 in fines. This penalty is overly harsh for what has long been lawful activity since this nation’s founding, both in federal law, and in every State of the Union. It’s also bizarre since this punishment is far more severe than the existing law this bill amends, which only has a 3-year imprisonment for a **disqualified person** (someone who **disqualified themselves** from possessing a firearm).

Clearly the authors of this bill are not acting in good faith and their motives should be questioned. Additionally, per my explanation in my Unfavorable testimony of SB001, bills like this one punish those who are less fortunate than myself, with struggles I cannot imagine as someone who has not experienced bigotry, or growing up in a neighborhood stricken by crime, and thus additional interactions with law enforcement. This bill will target those most likely to need a long gun for self-defense, as well as those most likely to be targeted unfairly by law enforcement.

For these reasons I urge an unfavorable report of Senate Bill 0086.



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