

SB0086 OPPOSE

Good Afternoon Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

I am opposed to this bill for many reasons, most of which you have probably already heard here today.

This bill if it became law would in fact be an infringement on the rights of citizens of all ages. It infringes on the rights of free trade by businesses, as well as individuals by prohibiting the sale of legal items to law abiding citizens who intend to engage in lawful activities.

It further infringes on the rights of individuals by prohibiting a service man or woman who has not reached the age of 21 by disallowing them to engage in activities for which they have been trained when not on duty. That means a service person could not engage in recreational hunting or sporting events while on leave but still unable to go home so daddy or granddaddy can go hunting with him or her.

In this state citizens are required to have a hunting license to hunt legally, the requirements for obtaining a hunting license is that the person wishing to obtain the license must take a 12-14 hour hunter safety course as outlined by MD DNR as well as pass a 50-question multiple choice test with a grade of 80 percent, demonstrate to the instructor that he or she can safely handle a firearm in a field situation and participate in live firing. Students must also demonstrate to the instructor that they are responsible and mature.

My point is that there are already laws in Maryland that law abiding citizens follow. This bill if enacted would do nothing to make Maryland safer. Criminals will not care what legislation is in effect. There are already laws that make the misuse of a firearm a felony. Murder is already illegal. This bill only infringes on the rights of law abiding citizens for that reason I urge you to respond with an unfavorable report.

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