



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 7, 2023

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Oppose SB 86 – Rifles and Shotguns – Possession – Age Requirement (Raise the Age Act of 2023)**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in opposition of SB 86. This bill would increase minimum age for the sale and ownership of a rifle or shotgun to 21 years old. There are areas of exemption for a minor to possess a rifle or shotgun, but they won't be able to purchase and own one until 21. One that violates this law would be convicted of a misdemeanor and subject to a maximum of 5 years or a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or both.

In the rural communities, many families enjoy the ability to hunt on their property and provide their children with the opportunity to responsibly own and use a rifle or shotgun. This bill would make law-abiding citizens and families criminals if they continued these long-time traditions. This bill would limit responsible young adults from being allowed to hunt with their own gun even though they are allowed (and required) to purchase a hunting license to hunt at the age of 17. Making criminals out of law-abiding citizens is not the answer to trying to reduce violent crimes in Maryland.

MDFB Policy: We oppose any legislation that would further restrict the purchase and ownership by law-abiding citizens of firearms, handgun, long arm, autoloader, or manual loader.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 86

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396