

## HB 750 – Gun Theft Felony Act of 2023

I am writing to support, and urge a favorable report on, HB750.

The proposed law, to make the intentional theft of a firearm a felony, will provide real deterrence to what is often the first act in a chain of events that leads to tragedy. As the Maryland State Police, and other law enforcement agencies have shown, stolen firearms are used in the majority of illegal firearm crimes and, in a significant number of cases, the same stolen firearm is shared by criminals and used in multiple illegal activities. At present, often, the one who steals the firearm faces nothing more than a misdemeanor charge. Specifically making theft of a firearm a felony is a serious response to that problem.

Sincerely,

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