



Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

RE: Support for House Bill 947: Civil Actions - Public Nuisances - Firearm Industry Members (Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024)

Dear Chairman Clippingern

On behalf of the March for Our Lives, a courageous youth-led movement dedicated to promoting civic engagement, education, and direct action by youth to eliminate the epidemic of gun violence, I write this letter to register our support for HB 947. This measure would allow lawsuits against members of the gun industry who act recklessly and participate in unethical practices thus harming public safety.

On average, 743 people die by guns, and 1,363 people are wounded at the hands of firearms per year in Maryland. The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act has protected the gun industry for 17 years. Not allowing us to hold the gun industry accountable for causing public harm, the state has enabled them to continue to play this dangerous role. This bill allows legal action to be taken by the Attorney General by bringing a civil action against a firearm industry member. Regarding taking action that would knowingly violate this legislation if passed by "creating, maintaining, or contributing to a public nuisance through the sale, manufacture, distribution, importation, or marketing of a firearm-related product under certain circumstances."

At March For Our Lives, we recognize that gun manufacturers' and sellers' lack of concern for public safety has led to countless unnecessary deaths. If any other industry were causing this amount of harm, they would be held legally accountable. It is time the gun industry is held to the same standards.

For these reasons, we proudly express our support for HB 947 and urge passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Cobb

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Policy & Government Affairs Manager
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