

SB0488 – Civil Actions – Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024

I am writing to oppose, and urge an unfavorable report on SB 0488.

As written the bill opens legitimate firearms and accessories dealers to undue burdens.

Section G-IV-2 requires a dealer to reject sale of a firearm to “A person who the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe intends to use the firearm-related product... (2) to cause harm to the person or another person.” Many people purchase firearms specifically for self-defense. Using a firearm in self-defense could easily be construed as “causing harm” to another person. Consequently, it is not difficult to conceive that any dealer who sold a firearm to anyone - who later used the firearm for self-defense purposes – could be involved in action by the Attorney General and sued by any person who perceives they were harmed, in any way, by the use of a firearm in self-defense. The proposed law is unjust in the extreme and should never be encoded into Maryland law.

Sincerely,

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