

January 9, 2023

To Charles County Commissioners

Re: Bill 2022-14 Weapons and Firearms Prohibited on County-Owned or Operated Property

My name is Michael Hasel and I live in St. Mary's County and find this potential legislation very troubling. As a law-abiding citizen this legislation has the potential to make myself and 10s of thousands Marylanders and others a potential felon unbeknownst to them overnight.

A criminal by their very definition is one who DOES NOT follow laws of society, and this will be no different other than removing our constitutional right for self-defense from those who are able to legally carry a firearm in the state of Maryland.

I realize your intent is to create a maze of legality and confusion for the legal gun owner, however this will only serve to open the Charles County government up to future litigation and challenges in court. This is NOT something you should be wasting time and resources on and instead focus your resources on fighting existing crime and imposing the strictest sentencing on those true criminals who prey on the good citizens of our community.

Please DO NOT act in the knee-jerk reactions as other anti-gun communities have done but rather do everything to ensure that your citizens are allowed to protect themselves wherever they find themselves in Charles County.

Law abiding citizens who this legislation will impact the most should NEVER be victimized by their own government but rather supported and allowed to protect themselves and others. In removing our right to self-defense, you are essentially making yourselves and Charles County government liable for all future acts of violence that a lawful citizen could have prevented.

Please remember in any type of emergency, seconds count and professional help is minutes away. I ask you to take a moment and look around your workplace, our schools, and your home, do you see a fire extinguisher? Ask yourself what its purpose is, and does it have the ability to prevent tragedy by those trained to use it? Firearms are no different and should not be demonized.

Thank you for your time and consideration, very respectfully

Michael Hasel

Chaptico, MD