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May 23, 2019

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of the State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 1343/SB 1000 – Handgun Permit Review Board – Repeal

Dear Governor Hogan:

We write today to respectfully request the veto of HB 1343/SB 1000 – Handgun Permit Review Board – Repeal. These bills eliminate Maryland's Handgun Permit Review Board. The bills require those seeking to appeal the decision of the Maryland State Police regarding handgun permits, to appeal directly to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Established in 1972, the Handgun Permit Review Board reviews Maryland State Police (MSP) decisions regarding handgun permits. Under current law, if a citizen's handgun permit application or renewal has been rejected or limited by MSP, or if their permit has been revoked, they may ask the board to review the decision of MSP. After a hearing to establish the facts, the Board may sustain, reverse, or modify the decision of MSP. Any party aggrieved by the board's decision may file an appeal that is heard by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

The Handgun Permit Review Board is an important tool for citizens in a state that continuously places burdensome restrictions on their 2nd Amendment Rights. It allows them to have their appeal heard without having to incur the expense of hiring an attorney. Citizens seek carry permits due to concerns for their safety, and they should not have to hire an attorney to convince the State of their need to defend themselves.

As is too often the case when it comes to legislation dealing with the lawful ownership of firearms, the General Assembly has passed yet another bill that gives the appearance of doing something while failing to make our citizens any safer. Studies have found no correlation between carry permits and violent crime.

Everyone is concerned about the plague of violent crime that has impacted Baltimore City and reverberated through the entire State of Maryland over the last few years. You have, time and again, offered common-sense solutions that would help mitigate this epidemic and make our communities safer; legislation like this does neither.

Further restrictions on the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens will do nothing to reduce violent crime. Therefore, we ask that you veto HB 1343 and SB 1000. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Nic Kipke
Minority Leader



Kathy Szeliga
Minority Whip



Wayne A. Hartman
Delegate, District 38-C