



# Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

*The Sportsmen's Best Friend*

February 10, 2017

**THE HONORABLE BOBBY A. ZIRKIN**

Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Honorable Members

## **OPPOSITION: Rifles & Shotguns – Secondary Transactions (SB 948)**

The bi-partisan Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus opposes Senate Bill 948 (Rifles & Shotguns – Secondary Transactions) – which is scheduled for a public hearing on March 8, 2017 – for reasons stated herein.

The Caucus has been besieged by Maryland's hunting community, via the Maryland Hunting Coalition, which stands united in its opposition to Senate Bill 948. In short, the bill would end what has been a longstanding practice of buying and trading shotguns/rifles between consenting buyers and sellers in the private sector. Law abiding individuals view this Act, rightly or wrongly, as a punitive measure thinly guised to create a statewide gun ownership registry. Moreover, it creates a cumbersome licensing process that will prove not only confusing, but also subject those involved with criminal charges for unintended violations.

What's most curious to us is the fact the federal government does not regulate secondary firearm transactions under NICS (National Instant Check System). So, would enactment of this proposal constitute a ban on the sale of shotguns and rifles? Has an Advice of Counsel from the Attorney General been sought to answer this question?

The Caucus agrees with the hunting community and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Senator Astle, Senate Co-Chair

Delegate Wendell Beitzel, House Co-Chair

Cc:

Honorable Members, Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus