

Submitter: Chelsea Bearden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB429

I oppose SB 429 because it imposes unnecessary delays and restrictions on lawful firearm purchases, infringing on the rights of responsible gun owners while doing little to enhance public safety. This bill would require gun dealers to delay any firearm or unfinished frame/receiver transfer for a minimum of 72 hours—even if the purchaser passes a background check in minutes.

This is not about ensuring safety; it's about creating bureaucratic hurdles that turn a fundamental right into a permission-based privilege. If a person has already passed the required background check and been cleared by the Department of State Police, there is no justifiable reason to force them to wait an arbitrary 72 hours. This only burdens law-abiding citizens—especially those who may be purchasing a firearm for personal protection.

SB 429 could also cause serious logistical issues for gun dealers and law enforcement, potentially clogging the system and delaying legitimate transactions without reducing crime. Criminals don't wait for background checks—they acquire firearms illegally. This law doesn't stop them; it only punishes the law-abiding.

Delaying a constitutional right without cause is a dangerous precedent. I urge lawmakers to reject SB 429 and focus instead on policies that target illegal firearms and violent offenders—not responsible citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights.