



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY FOR WISE COUNTY & THE CITY OF NORTON

C.H. "Chuck" Slep, III
Commonwealth's Attorney

The Courthouse, Suite 123
P.O. Box 69, Wise, VA 24293

November 22, 2019

Mark Caruso
534 Park Avenue
Norton, Virginia 24273

RE: Your phone call from November 22, 2019

Dear Mr. Caruso:

Thank you for your phone call.

As you may know, I am an active member of the Legislative Watch Committee of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys. Our committee monitors closely all legislation as it moves through the General Assembly and I will continue to use my influence on this committee to voice opposition to proposals that threaten public safety and our individual rights. I am very concerned about several bills proposed for this upcoming session, including legislation which would revoke "Truth in Sentencing" by reinstating parole for violent offenders, abandon our dedication to the lives and rights of the unborn by relaxing abortion restrictions, abolish the death penalty, encourage drug abuse by decriminalizing drug offenses, and those proposals that will affect our Second Amendment rights. I will continue to oppose these proposals.

Upon taking office, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia. I strongly support the Second Amendment which provides that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." As you well know, the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized this as a fundamental individual right. My hope is that common sense will prevail in Richmond this session and, if it does not, I am confident that our Courts will strike down unconstitutional infringements on law abiding citizens' rights.

Ultimately, as Commonwealth's Attorney, my focus is to investigate and prosecute crimes that present real threats to public safety, such as substance abuse, drug trafficking, crimes of violence, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse and exploitation, larceny, and burglaries. That is where my focus will remain.

In the meantime, I urge you to contact members of the Virginia General Assembly to voice your concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "CS", written over a horizontal line.

C.H. "Chuck" Slep, III
Commonwealth's Attorney