



Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

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Honorable Members of the
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Md. 21401

**Subject: HB-0963 Sales and Use Tax - Exemption - Firearm Safety Devices
SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Delegates:

I represent the Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (WCFSC) which is comprised of eighteen hunting clubs and sportsmen's associations with nearly six thousand individual members in Washington County. As President of the Federation, I work together with the leadership of a much wider Coalition of Western Maryland Sportsmen's Clubs for the benefit of not only Washington County Sportsmen, but also for the five most western counties of Maryland.

I, as a private citizen of this state and as the representative of the Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc. **strongly urge you to support HB-0963, Titled: Sales and Use Tax - Exemption - Firearm Safety Devices.**

Over the past decade, and more and more increasingly, there has been legislation passed that requires handguns and regulated firearms to be safely stored out the reach of children. This year HB-0200 and SB-0479 strives to redefine the regulation of not only what must be "safely stored" (to include **all firearms**, including sporting rifles and shotguns) but now to increase the age up from children to any age below 18 (Minors). Failure to do so can result in fine and imprisonment.

Currently both House Bill 0200 and Senate Bill 0479 state ***"FOR the purpose of altering a certain prohibition to prohibit a person from storing or leaving a loaded or unloaded firearm in a location where a minor could gain access to the firearm . . . "***

Both HB-0200 and SB-0479 seek to require that all firearms be stored in a manner that a person under the age of eighteen cannot gain access to an operable firearm. However, neither of these bills mention that trigger locks are acceptable devices to render a firearm inoperable and therefor would satisfy the intent of the legislation. Instead, they strongly imply that an inaccessible locked room or free-standing gun safe of some type is necessary to prohibit access to firearms.

Firearms safety is every gun owner's responsibility. It is our position however, that if the government intends to require that all gun owners store all firearms in such a specific manner, the expense of such devices that meet the intentions of the legislation should not only be tax free, but perhaps also tax deductible.

Again, I strongly urge you to support HB-0963.

Respectfully,

Joe Winter

Joe Winter
President, WCFSC

"Sportsmen & Conservationists, working together..."