

Testimony for SB784

My name is Donna Worthy and I am the President of Maryland Firearms Dealers Association as well as the President of Worth-A-Shot Firearms in Millersville MD. I am testifying today with strong opposition to SB784.

This bill proposes as 11% excise tax on all firearms, all firearm accessories and ammunition. This is quite a large amount to add to a customers purchase. An average firearm costs \$500. If we added that 11% tax to a firearm purchase of \$500, we are adding \$55.00 to our customers costs. Dealers would be unable to cover this cost without adding it to the customers purchase total because dealer margins are quite low. Adding \$55.00 to a customers cost would cause customers to do one of two things. One, they would not purchase and not be able to exercise their rights or protect their family due to the cost. Or two, most customers would simply purchase in another state and transfer their purchase to MD, avoiding the 11% tax entirely. This would quite frankly put most brick and mortar firearm stores out of business in this state. This would absolutely not reduce firearms in MD, but instead would take revenue and jobs away from this state and give it to others. The \$55.00 is simply an average. This fee could be much higher on many purchases. A Firearm costing \$800 would add a tax amount of \$88.00. This is an excessive amount to add comparatively to alcohol, tobacco or even gasoline. The price to purchase those things is much lower impacting the customers far less than this tax would impact our customers.

This bill would also require record keeping of every single purchase that requires this tax be added. Does this mean we would now be required to obtain a customers information for a simple purchase of a magazine loader? That same customer could also easily go online and purchase that same magazine loader and avoid the 11% tax completely and have the item delivered to their doorstep.

This bill would be crippling to most Firearm stores in MD.

For these reasons I strongly oppose SB784.

Thank you for your time.