

Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to SB0784
“Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act”

Now is not the time to tighten the taxation squeeze on Marylanders, for anything. The increased cost of fuel (and ripple effect onto groceries and just about any product needed to survive) is strangling all of us.

As an elected official, you are supposed to be smarter, or at least wiser, than me. Find a way to fund these programs with what you have. Don't take the easy way out and squeeze us subjects harder. If these programs are indeed important, you'll find a better way.

Honestly, I do not trust that this funding will not be another “shell game,” like the revenue from gambling being used for education. Sure, it makes it sound nice and easy to sell to the voters, but when the new revenue is used in place of (and not in addition to) existing funding, it really seems disingenuous.

Including “body armor” on the list of taxed items seems like a slap in the face to citizens who do not feel safe. Will this include the bullet resistant backpacks that are marketed to parents who fear for their child's safety at school?

While some states (such as West Virginia) have acknowledged the necessity of it's citizens' self defense in these financially difficult times and exempted firearms, ammunition, and accessories from sales tax, it is not surprising that Maryland, the FeeState, intends to increase them.

I ask for an unfavorable report.

Thank you,
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