

Honorable Senators

I strongly oppose SB0784.

I will skip the valid second amendment arguments against this bill, as they would fall on deaf ears.

Proponents of this bill claim that imposing an 11 percent excise tax on vendors who sell firearms, ammunition and various firearm accessories would just tax gun sellers profits and would not affect the consumer. This assertion is false as anyone who has taken a basic economics class should know, taxing corporations will result in the business just passing the tax to the consumer as an expense. This is just a hidden tax on consumers that will raise the cost of firearms, ammunition and various firearm accessories and is a hidden attempt to make gun ownership too expensive.

Trying to justify the tax to help pay for all the gunshot injuries treated by Shock Trauma is another affront to law abiding citizens. Those of us who legally purchase guns are rarely those who create customers for shock trauma. Almost all of the crimes that result in shootings were perpetrated by criminals that stole the guns or purchased them illegally.

We should not be held financially responsible for the increase in wounded Shock Trauma patients just because we purchase guns. Even if you banned future sales of guns, there are so many illegal guns being used to commit crimes, the number of wounded would still exist, and Shock Trauma would need a new revenue source.

Perhaps if you passed bills that would keep in jail those arrested for using guns in the commission of a crime, there would be fewer shootings and Shock Trauma would have fewer customers.

Please vote against SB0784.

Alan Lang, District 31
242 Armstrong Lane
Pasadena, MD 21122
410.336.9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net