

SB0444_Crossover Bill_
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**TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL SB#0444 - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH
AMENDMENTS**

Public Safety - Gun Buyback Programs - Destruction of Firearms

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support with its amendments of crossover bill SB0444, Public Safety - Gun Buyback Programs - Destruction of Firearms

This bill passed the Senate with amendments 33-12 on 02/28/25, there was no cross-filed bill.

This bill will prevent any gun acquired through a gun buyback program from ever being used again. It will also aid in the detection of any prior use of the surrendered weapon. This bill accomplishes that goal by requiring a federal firearms licensee or law enforcement agency operating a gun buyback program to destroy each firearm and all its components and parts, that is traded in as part of a gun buyback program. It authorizes a certain person or entity to contract with a law enforcement agency or a business to destroy certain firearms. It enhances law enforcement efforts by requiring a law enforcement agency operating a gun buyback program to make certain efforts to determine whether a firearm is a crime firearm or has been reported lost or stolen before destroying the weapon.

Gun buyback programs compensate individuals who turn over firearms to a public agency or private organization. In the United States, nearly all buyback programs are implemented at the county or city level, and participation is always voluntary. The primary goal of gun buyback programs is to prevent firearm violence by reducing the stock of firearms in a community. Gun buybacks can also serve as venues for raising awareness of the risks associated with firearms, educating participants about safer firearm storage, and connecting violence prevention organizations, all of which could potentially lead to reductions in firearm crimes, injuries, or deaths.¹

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report with its amendments on crossover bill SB0444.

¹ <https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/essays/gun-buyback-programs.html>