



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 26, 2025

RE: **SB 444 – Public Safety – Gun Buyback Programs – Destruction of Firearms**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT** SB 444. This bill addresses gun buyback programs and requires that firearms traded in for compensation be destroyed and every component and part attached to the firearm be made permanently inoperable and unrepairable.

This bill takes a crucial step in ensuring the effectiveness of gun buyback programs by mandating the destruction of all firearms traded in for compensation, preventing their reentry into circulation. However, it rightly includes an essential safeguard by exempting firearms identified as stolen or as evidence in a crime. This provision ensures that law enforcement agencies retain the ability to investigate criminal activity, return stolen property to rightful owners, and uphold justice without interfering with the program's core objective of reducing the number of unwanted or potentially dangerous firearms in communities. By balancing public safety with law enforcement needs, this bill strengthens gun buyback initiatives while preserving investigative integrity.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 444** and urge a FAVORABLE committee report as amended.