

GARY SIMMONS
Legislative District 12B
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure

Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 17, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of HB0713

Dear Chairman Luke Clippinger, Vice Chair Sandy Bartlett and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0713, legislation that promotes responsible firearm ownership by ensuring that safety and mental health resources are readily available to those purchasing firearms and ammunition.

This bill directs the Maryland Department of Health to create educational materials on firearm safety, responsible storage, and suicide prevention. These materials would be distributed to county health departments, which would then provide them to all businesses selling firearms or ammunition within their jurisdictions.

HB0713 is a common-sense, non-restrictive approach to firearm safety that prioritizes education over regulation. By equipping gun owners with crucial information on safe handling and secure storage, we can help reduce accidental shootings, unauthorized access to firearms, and firearm-related suicides.

This initiative follows the precedent set by public health campaigns that have successfully raised awareness and saved lives, such as those on seat belt use and smoking cessation. Providing firearm safety information at the point of sale is a simple yet impactful way to foster responsible gun ownership and enhance public safety.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support HB0713 and ensure that all firearm purchasers in Maryland have access to the resources needed to promote safety and responsibility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Simmons", written over a horizontal line.

Delegate Gary Simmons