

Written Testimony Supporting Maryland House Bill 816

Paul Cheakalos
Montgomery County, District 19
Support for House Bill 816

February 21, 2022

I am writing to ask you to provide a favorable report for House Bill 816, which will allow a sales tax exemption for the first \$500 of the price of firearm safety devices, including safes, lockboxes, trigger locks, etc. This will slightly bring down the cost for new firearm safety devices, which will help keep firearms secure from unauthorized individuals.

Currently, when purchasing a handgun in Maryland, a simple cable gunlock is included. After spending hundreds, if not, thousands of dollars at a gun shop, many gunowners may overlook more advanced firearm safety devices, such as gun safes and lockboxes; however, this tax exemption may encourage them to purchase additional safety devices, which will help reduce theft and/or accidental discharge of a firearm.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report for House Bill 816, as it will encourage individuals to purchase firearm safety devices. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

Paul Cheakalos