

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL F BURKE, IN SUPPORT OF **SB 655**

03/08/2023

In introduction, please be informed that I am:

- * Veteran of the Armed Forces, with 21 years of Service with the US Army, as a Military Police Office, MP Investigator, and Counterintelligence Agent.
- * 25 years Law Enforcement Officer and Special Agent, at the County, State, and Federal levels.
- * Expert in Maryland Firearms Law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense.
- * Maryland State Police Qualified Handgun Instructor QHIC-2016-0123 for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License
- * NRA Pistol Instructor, Chief Range Safety Officer
- * Subject Matter Expert in Physical Security – Certified Protection Professional (**CPP**), ASIS International
- * Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with over 30 yrs. experience
- * An experienced Chief Election Judge with service over the terms of several past Governors in Maryland (speaking as a Citizen, not for the Elections Board);
- * Board Member of Maryland Shall Issue (“MSI”)

I appear today in SUPORT OF SB 655.

The Bill:

This Bill is very simple. Authorizing a credit against the State income tax for the purchase of certain firearm safety devices in an amount equal to the lesser of 100% of the purchase price or \$250 during the taxable year; making the credit refundable; requiring proof of purchase to be provided to the Comptroller for a firearm safety device for which an individual is claiming a credit; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.

The US Constitution affirms (not grants) the right of the PEOPLE (not just citizens, not just adults) to keep and bear arms. This proposed legislation flies in the face of the Constitution and is in direct contravention of the orders of the Supreme Court.

As a teenager myself, I carried a rifle, a machine gun, AND a handgun as a soldier and Military Police officer from age 18 to 21. I was entrusted by the US and State governments to stand watch and to go to war for over 21 years.

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This bill provides a POSITIVE incentive for all citizens who own firearms to obtain and USE appropriate safety locks and devices in their homes and businesses, when the firearm is not actively in use.

I urge the Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on this bill.

Michael F Burke, CPP

