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**TO:** The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Tiffany Johnson Clark  
Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** House Bill 810 – Criminal Law – Weapons Crimes – Switch/Auto-Sear –  
**Support**

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The Office of Attorney General respectfully urges this Committee to report favorably on House Bill 810 – Criminal Law – Weapons Crimes – Switch/Auto-Sear. House Bill 810 (1) prohibits a person from transporting a switch/auto-sear into the State, (2) prohibits a person from manufacturing, possessing, selling, offering to sell, transferring, purchasing, or receiving a switch/auto-sear, (3) authorizes a law enforcement unit to seize as contraband a switch/auto-sear, and (4) applying certain penalties to a person who uses a switch/auto-sear in a commission of a crime.

A “switch” or “auto-sear” (sometimes also called a Glock switch, Glock auto-sear, button, or giggle switch) is any device, such as a small device attached to the rear of a gun, which converts a gun from a semi-automatic gun to a fully-automatic gun. A switch/auto-sear allows a gun to fire continuously until the gun is out of ammunition, rather than waiting or pausing after each round and requiring another pull of the trigger. In essence, the “switch” or auto-sear converts the gun into a machine gun. Under the National Firearms Act, switches/auto-sears (whether installed or not) are considered to be machine guns and are illegal under federal law.

Despite being illegal federally, according to the New York Times, these devices are turning up with greater frequency at crime scenes. The sheer number of these devices that are in circulation and the ease with which they can be produced and installed at home makes it difficult for federal law enforcement to control their use. House Bill 801 would provide an additional tool to help get these devices out of our communities by allowing State law enforcement to seize these devices as contraband when they are found and to apply penalties to individuals who use these devices.

Machine guns are among the most regulated firearms in the United States, but switches/auto-sears provide an easy and inexpensive workaround to the regulation. When an already dangerous semi-automatic weapon is turned into a fully-automatic weapon, the weapon becomes even more lethal and can result in catastrophic results - especially to innocent bystanders and law enforcement. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 801.

cc: Judiciary Committee members