



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Chair Clippinger,

I write in strong support of HB 810, Criminal Law – Weapons Crimes – Switch/Auto-Sear, which would prohibit a person from purchasing, owning, selling, transferring, or receiving these deadly devices.

A Glock switch or any other auto-sear device takes a legal semi-automatic weapon and converts it into an automatic, rapid fire machine gun that can fire over 1,000 rounds per minute. Often referred to as simply a “switch,” this metal or plastic device is smaller than a pen cap and can be easily produced at home using a 3D printer. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), a switch can be inserted into a gun to apply continuous pressure to the trigger bar to prevent the gun from pausing between shots and allows rapid deployment of bullets time the trigger is depressed¹. In fact, many gangs refer to the modified firearms, generally capable of firing 30 rounds from the magazine in 2.6 seconds, as “spray guns.”

Some opponents have argued that this law is redundant and unnecessary because federal law classifies any gun with a switch as a machine gun, and Maryland law already bans the possession of a machine gun. In order to charge someone with possession of a switch, one must be a federal law enforcement officer or deputized by federal law enforcement as a task force officer. We cannot rely on federal law enforcement to get these devices off the street; we need our local and state agencies to

¹ <https://www.atf.gov/news/pr/indictment-so-called-%E2%80%98glock-switches%E2%80%99-would-have-turned-pistols-machineguns>

be empowered by State law. Federal law enforcement is unlikely to step in on small, local cases despite the devastation caused to our communities. As it stands currently, if a local or state law enforcement officer finds someone with a legally registered handgun that contains a switch, that officer cannot charge that person with a crime. Additionally, the will to enforce the law at the federal level is subject to fluctuation with changes in administration and we need to signa and staffing capacity. We need to make sure we have the flexibility to engage in maximum enforcement against use, possession, and manufacture of these devices.

I thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for House Bill 810 and **I urge this Committee's favorable report.**

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Luedtke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

Dawn Luedtke
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7

Cc: Members of the Judiciary Committee