

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my support for HB0250, the bill to provide an income tax credit for the purchase of firearm safety devices. As a gun owner in Montgomery County and a member of District 17, I strongly feel this initiative represents a thoughtful approach to promoting responsible firearm ownership and enhancing public safety in Maryland. By incentivizing the use of safety devices, this legislation has the potential to reduce preventable accidents and ensure firearms are stored securely, keeping our communities safer.

This bill is a natural extension of Maryland's recently passed safe storage laws, which were designed to prevent unauthorized access to firearms and reduce the risk of negligent discharges. HB0250 aligns with the intent of those laws by further encouraging gun owners to prioritize safety through the use of approved firearm safety devices and safes. Providing a financial incentive ensures that more residents can afford these devices, making compliance with safe storage requirements more achievable for all.

One of the standout aspects of HB0250 is its focus on proactive safety measures. By providing a financial incentive to purchase firearm safety devices, this bill supports responsible gun ownership in a way that is accessible to more Marylanders. Research shows that secure storage significantly reduces the risk of accidental firearm discharges and unauthorized access, particularly by children. As a gun owner, I understand the importance of balancing personal rights with the responsibility to protect others, and this bill strikes that balance effectively.

I appreciate and commend the leadership of Delegate Vogel and this committee in bringing this important issue to the forefront. This is a true "common-sense" measure that supports Maryland's commitment to public safety while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners. Your efforts to prioritize both safety and individual rights are commendable.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our state and I hope you take this and other testimony into consideration on advancing this bill.

Sincerely,

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