

**House Bill 0937**  
**Sales and Use Tax – Firearms, Firearm Accessories, and Ammunition**  
**Rate Alteration**  
**Unfavorable**

Good afternoon. My name is Kierstyn Rader. I'm 15 and have been in youth shooting sports for six years, shooting both rifle and shotgun. I'm here today to talk about how proposed legislation will negatively impact youth shooting sports.

The costs are already high. Shotgun ammo, which used to be \$4.50 a box through my club, is now \$10.50. Rifle ammo is about \$6 a box, and I use one to one and a half boxes per practice. Between rifle and shotgun, my monthly club practice costs \$64-\$86. Competitions are even more expensive. This past Sunday, a single match cost me \$35.

Shooting sports have given me greater concentration and focus, making me a better student and community member. I feel safer because of my training. When I was eight, my friend and I found a handgun. Because of my training, I knew not to touch it and to call an adult. At Arundel Mills Mall, during an active shooter situation, my training helped us shelter in place and understand what to do if confronted by the shooter.

I encourage other kids to get involved in shooting sports for these benefits. But the costs are already a barrier. This proposed tax will make it even harder for families to afford it. I fear kids will miss out on these valuable experiences, and that some may even be put in danger by not knowing how to react in a firearms related situation.

I urge lawmakers to consider the impact of gun laws on youth shooting sports. This bill should be stopped in this committee. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kierstyn Rader

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