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Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 875- Public Safety- Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms and Ammunition.** Thank you, Delegate Simmons, for sponsoring this bill again this session.

My name is Abbey Clements, Executive Director, Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence Action. I am writing today as a retired teacher (after 32 years of service), a survivor of the Sandy Hook school shooting, and a co-founder of Teachers Unify to End Gun Violence Action. More than a decade since the tragedy, I can tell you this with certainty: prevention matters and information matters.

HB 875 takes a public-health approach to firearm safety by ensuring that accurate, evidence-based information—including safe storage, suicide prevention, mental health awareness, and conflict resolution. By tasking the Maryland Department of Health with developing this literature and distributing it through county health departments and firearm retailers, the bill ensures consistency, credibility, and reach.

As a teacher, I have seen how often stress, isolation, and crisis slip through the cracks. Many firearm-related tragedies—especially suicides and unintentional injuries—are preventable when families have access to clear information and know where to turn for help. This bill places that information at a critical point of contact, without adding barriers for lawful firearm ownership.

HB 875 does not change Maryland's existing handgun licensing requirements. It does not impose new training mandates or restrict rights. Instead, it reinforces safety education in a way that complements current law, including for individuals who are exempt from training or renewing a license and may not otherwise receive updated guidance.

From my experience, I can say that prevention cannot rely on intent alone. Policies must be implemented with care, consistency, and accountability if they are to save lives. This bill strikes that balance—emphasizing education over punishment, public health over fear, and prevention over reaction.

No teacher should carry the lifelong weight of wondering whether something, anything, could have made a difference. HB 875 is a practical, measured step toward making those differences real.

I urge the committee to pass HB 875 and help ensure that safety information reaches families before—not after—tragedy occurs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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