

To The Honorable Maryland House Ways and Means Committee Members
Subject: Opposition to Proposed 11% Delivery Fee on Firearms

Dear

I am writing as a concerned Maryland resident and supporter of responsible gun ownership to express my strong opposition to the proposed 11% delivery fee on firearms currently under consideration by the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee. While this measure may be presented as a regulatory fee, it is effectively a disguised excise tax that places an undue financial burden on law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights.

This proposal raises several significant concerns:

- **Unfair Financial Burden:** An 11% fee significantly increases the cost of purchasing firearms, disproportionately affecting middle- and working-class individuals. This fee penalizes responsible gun owners without addressing the root causes of gun violence or providing any proven public safety benefits.
- **Inequitable and Redundant Taxation:** Marylanders already pay sales taxes and federal excise taxes on firearms. Adding another layer of taxation is inequitable and unjustified, particularly when existing revenues could be allocated to programs that promote firearm safety and education.
- **Potential Constitutional Concerns:** By imposing excessive fees on firearm purchases, this proposal could infringe upon the constitutional rights of Marylanders by creating financial barriers to lawful gun ownership. The courts have historically scrutinized measures that unduly restrict access to firearms.
- **Negative Impact on Small Businesses:** Gun dealers, many of which are small businesses, will be unfairly burdened by this additional fee. It may lead to reduced sales, driving customers to neighboring states or online markets, harming Maryland's economy while failing to achieve its intended goals.

As members of the House Ways and Means Committee, you play a crucial role in shaping tax policy that directly impacts Maryland residents and businesses. Rather than imposing additional financial burdens on lawful firearm purchasers, I urge you to focus on initiatives that address the root causes of gun violence, such as enhancing mental health resources, improving community outreach programs, and strengthening existing enforcement mechanisms to ensure guns do not fall into the wrong hands.

I respectfully ask that you oppose this proposal and consider the broader implications it has on Maryland citizens, businesses, and the constitutional rights we all value. Please stand with responsible gun owners and reject this misguided measure.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your response and to seeing policies that truly support public safety and uphold the rights of Marylanders.

Sincerely,