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Senate Bill 816- Public Safety- Licensed Firearms Dealers' Safety Act)- **OPPOSE**

My name is Steve Schneider and I am the owner of Atlantic Guns, Inc. We are a family business with two locations in Montgomery County and are proud to have served the community for 70 years.

I strongly oppose SB 816 for the following reasons:

Section 5-145 duplicates many existing ATF regulations with the exception of the electronic format requirement. We spend many, many payroll hours on the endless detailed recordkeeping and reporting we must do as licensed firearms dealers. Few businesses face the regulations and scrutiny that we do. ATF regulations require us to keep paper records of all firearm transactions unless a special variance is approved. This bill would require us to keep two sets of records, with more payroll expense and would require me to invest a lot of money in a system that duplicates what we are doing already.

This section also requires video and audio recordings of receipts, sales and dispositions. We use video surveillance cameras for security reasons, but that is far different than recording interactions between customers and employees. This is an unacceptable invasion of privacy and it is unjust for my employees and customers to face this kind of intrusion. It may be appropriate to do this in jails and prisons, but law-abiding citizens should never be subjected to this. Personal conversations between employees and customers would be nearly impossible. Furthermore, I have no idea how I could afford and maintain a system to do this or how I could store the recordings for a year.

Regarding employee criminal history reports, Section 5-147 requires annual fingerprinting and background checks for every employee. It is against the law for prohibited persons to have access to firearms and work in a gun store. Although we currently do criminal background checks when we hire new employees, the requirement of repeating this process annually and adding the additional expense of fingerprinting would be a costly and unnecessary obligation. When we apply for the annual renewal of our State firearms license, we provide a list of employees to the Maryland State Police who could do background checks if deemed necessary.

Section 5-150 requires us to store every firearm in a locking display case or other inaccessible area during business hours. Atlantic Guns, and every dealer I know, display handguns in locked cases. Long guns being much larger and requiring more space are another matter. Between our two locations we currently have more than

1,200 rifles and shotguns in our inventory. We do not have the floor space nor can we afford locking cases large enough to display or store this inventory in the way this Bill requires. It would also require a trigger lock or other device on every firearm we display. I am not sure how safety will be improved by this because dealers already keep the firearms they are selling unloaded at all times. For a dealer with a large inventory this would be a costly and cumbersome requirement with questionable benefits.

The Bill also imposes specific after-hours storage requirements. Atlantic Guns lacks the space for a vault or safes for nighttime storage. If we did have sufficient space it would be physically impossible for us to move our large inventory twice every day. We utilize comprehensive electronic security systems with alarms and 24/7 monitoring. We have installed steel bars, metal grates, bollards and exterior lighting as allowed at each location. We make every effort to secure both of our locations and our inventory. We also communicate with local law enforcement any time a specific concern occurs.

As a dealer and member of the community, I am deeply concerned that the firearms in my inventory are secured. The requirements of this bill are unaffordable, unmanageable, and impractical.

I strongly oppose SB 816. If enacted, it will have a devastating impact on our ability to remain in business. I will be happy to meet with you at your convenience to answer questions or discuss this further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Schneider
President
Atlantic Guns, Inc.