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*Written Testimony of Katie Novotny in Support of HB618*

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February 20, 2020

I am a member of Multiple Gun Rights organizations. Maryland Shall Issue, Associated Gun Clubs, Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association, and the National Rifle Association. I am a certified Range Safety Officer with the NRA. I compete in multiple shooting events such as Steel Challenge, 3-gun, small bore, and vintage military rifle matches. I am an avid firearms collector. I support HB618.

This bill is an excellent method to encourage the purchase and use of firearm safety devices. Encouraging behavior through incentives can be an effective way to achieve a desired result. The desired result here would be having firearms unable to be accessed or used by unauthorized persons.

Gun storage safes can be very expensive, into the thousands of dollars for a good quality safe. The tax burden on a large ticket item like that is significant. Because of that, and our proximity to Delaware, which has no sales tax, many people choose to purchase items like this out of state. The drive and any tolls, is more than made up for in the savings. This bill will encourage people to purchase locally, and to have the ability to purchase a higher quality item, or to have more money left in their pocket to spend on other things.

Because of these reasons above, I request a favorable report.

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