

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive



JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: SB 784
TITLE: Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act
SPONSOR: Senator Elfreth
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
POSITION: **SUPPORT**
DATE: February 14, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 784 – Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act. The legislation imposes an excise tax on firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition and will fund various important community public safety services.

Baltimore County supports initiatives that better fund the greater public safety apparatus. The revenue generated under SB 784 would direct further funding to the services that prevent violence and save lives in our communities. This legislation specifically directs a significant portion of the collected revenue to the R. Adam Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical System among other institutions. Shock Trauma plays a key role in Maryland’s EMS system; moreover, the unwavering dedication of the staff and the quality of its facilities save lives across our state every day. The State of Maryland must continue to provide the necessary funding to institutions such as Shock Trauma as we strive to protect our communities amidst the epidemic of gun violence and provide high-quality care in the face of tragedies.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 784 from the Senate Budget and Taxation committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.