

HB 186 Sponsor Testimony – Representative Sean Patrick Brennan (14 - Parma)

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and Members of the Ohio House of Representatives Standing Committee on Way and Means:

Today, I stand before you to advocate for a significant change in our state's tax policy—a law to exempt gun safety devices from sales tax. This proposal addresses a critical aspect of public safety, responsible gun ownership, and the well-being of our communities.

First and foremost, it's essential to clarify the purpose of this law. We are not discussing the merits of gun ownership or gun control policies here. Instead, we are focusing on a common-sense approach to ensuring that those who choose to own firearms do so responsibly and safely.

Studies have consistently shown that gun safety devices, such as gun safes, trigger locks, and biometric access systems, play a crucial role in preventing accidental discharge and unauthorized access to firearms. They provide a layer of security that can help keep firearms out of the wrong hands, particularly when it comes to protecting children and vulnerable individuals. These devices are essential tools for responsible gun owners who prioritize the safety of their families and communities.

Now, let's discuss why exempting these safety devices from sales tax is not only a wise decision but also a compassionate one. By making gun safety devices more affordable, we remove financial barriers for gun owners to secure their firearms properly. This proposal encourages and incentivizes responsible gun ownership by ensuring that individuals who choose to own firearms can do so with the necessary safeguards in place.

Additionally, reducing the financial burden on responsible gun owners can help prevent thefts. Stolen firearms often end up in the hands of criminals, contributing to crime rates and endangering our communities. By encouraging the use of safety devices, we can contribute to lowering the number of stolen firearms, ultimately making our neighborhoods safer.

Furthermore, supporting this law sends a clear message about our commitment to promoting responsible gun ownership and public safety. It demonstrates that we prioritize the safety of our citizens, regardless of their stance on gun control. This is a bipartisan issue that transcends political divisions, as it ultimately aims to save lives and prevent tragedies – goals we can all rally behind. In fact, I am proud to say that the bill is supported by the Buckeye Firearms Association and I thank **Rob Sexton** for meeting with Rep. Brewer and me to discuss the bill.

In conclusion, exempting gun safety devices from sales tax is a step toward a safer and more responsible approach to gun ownership. It's an investment in our communities, our children, and our collective well-being. I urge you all to consider the positive impact this law can have on our state, and I call upon you to support this essential measure. Together, we can ensure that firearms are owned and stored responsibly, enhancing the safety and security of our great state for generations to come. Thank you.