

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and other distinguished members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Layla Greten and I am writing to voice my support for bill SB 577, Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms and Ammunition. I am the founder of a local Team ENOUGH chapter, a youth-led initiative dedicated to gun violence prevention.

Furthermore, I am aware of the impact of gun violence in my community. Too many lives are taken daily because of improper firearm usage or storage. There is a significant lack of awareness about safe firearm practices among gun owners, creating an environment that increases the risk of accidental shootings, unauthorized access, and preventable tragedies.

In a study conducted by Hopkins, it was found that only 46% of firearm users actually store their firearms according to safe storage guidelines. While some of this can be attributed to ignorance, much of it can also be a result of lack of education.

The bill would ensure that all sellers and buyers would be aware of the safety laws and guidelines. All firearm distributors would provide a packet, created by The Department of Health, to buyers of firearms. Included in the packet would be information regarding firearm safety and training, mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and conflict resolution. This can ensure that accidental and unintentional shootings are avoided. Not only will this bill allow for more education about safe storage and usage, but it has the capacity to save lives.

A family friend who owned firearms lost their high school-aged child due to unsafe firearm storage many years ago. If there is more education regarding safe storage in the future, situations like this can be avoided. This legislation has the power to prevent further such tragedies.

I strongly urge a favorable report for SB 577.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this urgent matter.

Signed,

Layla Greten

Founder Team ENOUGH Baltimore