

Testimony in Support of
SB 577 – Public Safety –
Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Firearms and Ammunition
With Amendment

Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 7, 2025

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I am a 35-plus-year Maryland resident, a member of the Maryland Bar, and a volunteer with gun violence prevention (GVP) organizations such as Moms Demand Action since 2015. I am submitting this testimony as a constituent.

I support SB 577 and believe it will be a critical complement to Maryland's strong GVP laws. County health departments in Maryland have traditionally been called upon to provide important public health literature and services, such as opioid overdose awareness and prevention. Requiring county health departments to include information on gun violence safety, training, and prevention; suicide prevention; and conflict resolution is a similar function.

The amendment I would offer is to remove the requirement that a representative of the county health department be authorized to issue citations to persons who violate the bill's terms. This goes beyond the scope of a health dept employee's job and sets up the possibility of unnecessary conflict between them and firearm sellers/purchasers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jacqueline McNamara