



## **Everytown for Gun Safety Testimony in Support of SB 0160**

**January 16, 2026**

Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I submit this written testimony on behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, where I am Counsel for state legislative advocacy. Everytown supports SB 0160 and requests a favorable report.

SB 0160 requires licensed gun dealers to report attempted theft or burglary resulting in damage to security features to the Maryland State Police. Under Maryland law, firearms dealers are required to implement a number of security measures, including site hardening (i.e., security gates or bars on windows), video surveillance, and alarm systems.

The notification required by SB 0160 enables State Police to check that dealers take measures to again comply with the requirements of the law after some or all of their security features have been compromised. Maryland State Police already have the authority to inspect or reinspect that dealer security measures are in place; this bill would also help them prioritize which dealers need to be inspected to ensure compliance with the law. Additionally, this notification will incentivize dealers to maintain and repair compromised security features, while alerting the State Police of potential break-in patterns and attempted theft of firearms.

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that gun dealers' sales practices affect the probability of guns getting to traffickers and that policies designed to hold dealers accountable can curtail the diversion of guns from the legal market. One study found that in-state trafficking was 64 percent lower in places with strong gun dealer regulations and oversight, and ATF data shows that gun dealers lose over seven times more guns to robberies in states without dealer licensing laws. Another study found that state licensing requirements and laws requiring or allowing inspections or audits of gun dealers were independently associated with significantly lower firearm homicide rates. In 2024, Maryland FFLs reported nearly 250 firearms lost or stolen from their inventory.

This bill helps direct Maryland State Police's inspection resources to the dealers that need it most, aiding in the robust implementation of Md. Code Ann., Pub. Safety § 5-145.1, which outlines security requirements for licensed firearms dealers.

On behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, I request a favorable report.

Mary Kenah  
Everytown for Gun Safety