



**Testimony in Opposition of Firearms - Right to Purchase,
Own, Possess, and Carry - Medical Cannabis
SB 190/HB 543**

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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence**

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Dear Chair Clippenger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a local, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland, with a particular focus on reducing urban gun violence and gun suicide. We do our work through preemptive strategies like programs for at-risk children, the telling of victim stories, violence prevention and intervention coalition work, and legislation.

We urge the committee to vote **UNFAVORABLY on HB 543** which seeks to expand firearm rights to medical cannabis patients in contravention of federal law and guidance.

Whether or not the federal government decides to address the guidance on medical cannabis' designation as a controlled substance, the science appears to still be evolving on the impairment effect on various types and methods of consumption to the user. There needs to be significant data submitted through proper scientific channels to warrant any sort of change affecting firearm purchase, possession, and/or carry rights. There is evidence at the moment that allowing firearm rights to those who may in fact be regularly impaired by their use of medical cannabis is not warranted or advisable.

We urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 543.