

Good afternoon. Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and members of the committee, my name is Melissa Ladd. I live in Olney, in District 19.

I am here in support of SB 773 and I ask for a favorable report out of committee. SB 773 provides a common sense provision to reducing the amount of stolen guns in Maryland.

Maryland gun stores are vulnerable to robbery as evidenced by a growing list of incidents:

- March 2017, a gun shop in Rockville in Montgomery County, 30 guns were stolen in 90 seconds¹
- June 2019, the same gun shop was robbed again in Montgomery County, with at least 10 guns stolen²
- June 2019, a shop in Howard County was robbed of 18 guns³
- August 2019, a store in Essex in Baltimore County, 6 guns were stolen⁴
- October 2020, St Mary's County in Mechanicsville, "numerous" guns were stolen⁵
- March 2021, Waldorf in Charles County, the shop's second burglary, "unknown" number were stolen⁶
- December 2021, Havre de Grace in Harford County, 23 guns stolen⁷

As you can see, gun shops are being robbed in all areas of state and their current security is not sufficient. If we want to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals, encouraging gun shops and FFLs to store the firearms securely will provide an extra barrier against theft and loss.

Thank you for your time.

¹https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/break-in-reported-at-gun-shop-in-maryland/2017/03/09/fd4f70ac-04c6-11e7-b1e9-a05d3c21f7cf_story.html

²https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/one-person-shot-by-a-police-officer-in-montgomery-county/2019/06/13/4431453e-8dc0-11e9-8f69-a2795fca3343_story.html

³https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/three-suspects-arrested-in-rockville-gun-store-break-in-ages-21-17-and-15/2019/06/14/c570f242-8ee3-11e9-8f69-a2795fca3343_story.html

⁴<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/washington-dc/articles/2021-06-17/dc-man-gets-nearly-5-year-s-for-maryland-gun-store-theft>

⁵<https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2020/10/01/vehicle-rams-into-maryland-gun-store-thief-or-thieves-steal-multiple-guns-officials-say/>

⁶<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/maryland/two-suspects-ram-pick-up-truck-into-waldorf-store-to-steal-firearms-charles-county/65-3e6a8d7d-e94c-49e1-990d-59852ad3e7fc>

⁷ <https://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2021/12/29/harford-county-pawn-shop-robbed-23-weapon-stolen/>