



Testimony of Lauren Kline  
Support for SB 0113  
Before the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

## **Oral Testimony for SB 0113**

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and distinguished members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Lauren Kline. and as both a longtime resident of Maryland who cares deeply about the safety, well-being and quality of life of our state and residents and as the Co-Lead of Brady Maryland, I am pleased to speak today in support of SB 113, which will allow our state and the people of our state to pursue civil claims against the gun industry in the same way they can be pursued against other industries.

As you have heard, since it was passed, PLCAA has shielded bad actors in the gun industry from most civil lawsuits, even when they have acted irresponsibly or negligently. There is no reason that any industry should be insulated from liability, much less an industry that deals in lethal weapons and has all too often put profits over people.

There are many responsible gun industry actors, and this won't impact them. But there are others that act with impunity because of the shield that PLCAA has provided:

Dealers who facilitate gun trafficking, which is devastating communities in Maryland. Online sellers who negligently allow children to purchase firearm accessories or ghost gun parts. Manufacturers who fail to incorporate safety technologies that could prevent unintentional shootings by children.

Guns can be safer-guns should be safer- Children have died because the manufacturers have chosen not to make them safer and have suffered no consequences.

It is past time to ensure that there is accountability for this action or inaction.

I urge a favorable report.