



Testimony in **Support** of

Firearms - Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Registry - Establishment

SB159/HB162

Executive Director Karen Herren
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence

February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and distinguished members of the Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) is a statewide, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland. We urge the committee for a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 159 to establish a voluntary “do not sell” firearm registry.

In Maryland, approximately 36% of gun deaths are suicides. That is an average of 265 people who die. Another 32 are wounded in gun suicide attempts. The registry established by this legislation would allow an individual to make a choice to place themselves on a “do not sell” list to help protect them from an impulse to purchase a firearm when they are least able to resist. The vast majority of suicides are performed in moments of crisis. Research indicates that if we can get the person through that moment there is an excellent chance they do not ultimately die of suicide. Access to lethal means is one of the key contributors to completion of a suicidal act. This voluntary list could be a simple but effective tool for individuals and their families navigating complicated mental illnesses. MPGV urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB159.