



Testimony of Cortez Washington, Team ENOUGH Baltimore
Support for HB 1287 [FAV]
Before the Maryland House Judiciary Committee
March 5th, 2025

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Cortez Washington, and I am a Junior at Loyola Blakefield High School. I am a member of Team ENOUGH Baltimore, the youth-led initiative for gun violence awareness and prevention under the Brady Campaign. I am writing to you to urge your support for HB 1287 Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Convertible Pistols.

Across Maryland, modified pistols are increasing as the weapon of choice for criminals. They have been found in Towson, Clarksburg, Parksville, and Baltimore. This trend has been caused by auto sears. An auto sear, also known as a switch, is a plastic device that turns a pistol into a semiautomatic weapon. With this switch, a pistol is capable of firing 1200 rounds per minute. These devices are illegal on the state level through HB 810 of 2024 as well as on the federal level. Auto sears are not only extremely dangerous, but they are extremely accessible. They can be 3D printed and they can be bought illegally for \$25. Firearm manufacturers are fully aware that their products can be converted, but they choose not to make changes. HB 1287 would hold manufacturers accountable by mandating they change their design, preventing the future installment of auto sears.



This problem has had a direct impact on my community. My mother's alma mater is Morgan State University. Two years ago, there was a mass shooting on campus where the perpetrator used a converted pistol. Converted pistols have the ability to escalate situations and increase risks. My grandparents live close to Morgan State, and the shooting made me worry about their safety.

By having these automatic weapons in our communities, all of us are at risk. It is time for there to be a change that will prevent future deaths.

I strongly urge a favorable report for HB 1287.

Signed,

Cortez Washington

Team ENOUGH Baltimore