



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**HB934**

**Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Resources, Tools, and  
Educational Materials  
Judiciary Committee  
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **House Bill 934**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

The Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Resources, Tools, and Educational Materials expands the powers of the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention by ensuring the development of comprehensive resources, tools, and educational materials related to firearms. This initiative enhances public safety by providing communities with critical information on firearm safety, violence prevention, and responsible gun ownership. Additionally, the bill authorizes the Center to collaborate with State and local agencies, as well as third-party organizations, ensuring a well-rounded and evidence-based approach to firearm violence prevention.

**House Bill 934** aligns with the principles of human dignity, the common good, and the call to protect human life. Gun violence disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, and the Church calls for policies that promote peace, protect innocent lives, and foster a culture of nonviolence. By investing in education and prevention, society can address the root causes of firearm violence, provide alternatives to violent conflict, and support initiatives that build safer communities.

At the community level, access to firearm safety resources and violence prevention tools empower families, schools, and local organizations to take proactive steps in reducing gun-related incidents. Educational materials can help prevent accidental shootings, reduce firearm access for individuals at risk of harming themselves or others, and encourage responsible gun ownership. Collaboration between government agencies and community partners ensures that prevention efforts are tailored to the specific needs of different populations, particularly in areas most affected by gun violence.

From a policy standpoint, expanding the Center's role in firearm violence prevention reflects a moral and social responsibility to protect human life and promote justice. Providing resources and education about firearm safety is a proactive step in reducing unnecessary

violence, safeguarding families, and fostering an environment where all individuals can live without fear of gun-related harm. By implementing these measures, Maryland reaffirms its commitment to preventing violence, upholding the dignity of every person, and prioritizing public safety for the well-being of all communities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **House Bill 934**.