



Testimony of Ben Barish, Team ENOUGH Baltimore  
**Support for HB 0934 [FAV]**  
Before the Maryland House Judiciary Committee  
March 5th, 2025

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, and Distinguished Members of the Maryland House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB0934. My name is Ben Barish, and I am a high school student at Gilman School in Baltimore and a member of Team ENOUGH Baltimore. We are a youth-led initiative dedicated to ending gun violence under the Brady Campaign. We have seen firsthand how the presence of gun violence in our city affects students.

HB0934 is a mandatory step in Maryland's fight against gun violence because it not only focuses on intervention but on prevention as well. The Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention would work with local agencies to develop approaches tailored to the unique needs of each area. It would ensure resources are available to schools, community organizations, and law enforcement to address the root causes of gun violence and develop solutions rather than mourning another loss.

As a student in Baltimore, I have grown up with the reality that gun violence is just a part of everyday life. Walking into school, I often wonder if I will get a notification that there is another shooting right near me. In class, I conjure up a plan of escape if someone broke through that door that very second. Will an administrator pull me out of class to tell me my mother, a second-grade teacher, or my father, a principal, was shot at the school they teach at? It is unacceptable that students like me have to worry about their safety in places that should be a space for learning and growth.

Every morning, my mother walks into a school filled with young elementary students, many of whom have been through countless drills. Her lessons on math and reading are interrupted because her students have to hide under desks or decide which pencil they should throw at a potential shooter. This center would provide the tools necessary to educate families about firearm safety, promote responsible gun ownership, and fund programs designed to intervene before a gun enters a school. These changes can protect not only the students' well-being but also the teachers and staff who dedicate their lives to education, not law enforcement.

We know the statistics of gun violence in Maryland, and they are disheartening. By passing HB0934, Maryland would take a modern, meaningful step toward breaking this cycle. Prevention is the key to saving lives, and it is done by stopping before it begins. This is for me, my parents, my classmates, and every Marylander who has ever feared leaving their home.



Thank you for your consideration of this imperative bill to address this urgent crisis. I strongly urge a favorable report for HB0934.

Sincerely,  
Ben Barish  
Team ENOUGH Baltimore