



Testimony of **Layla Greten, Team ENOUGH**
Support for HB 1287 [FAV]
Before the Maryland House Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2025

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

My name is Layla Greten. I am a high school student at Archbishop Spalding High School and the founder of a local Team ENOUGH chapter, a youth-led initiative under the Brady Campaign. I am writing to voice my support for HB 1287.

HB 1287 bans the sale and distribution of firearms that can be easily converted into automatic weapons by the use of “auto-sears,” also known as glock switches. It is important to note that these “auto-sears” are banned on both the state and federal levels. However, because these devices are readily available to be bought illegally or can be easily 3D printed, they are an emerging threat to communities in Maryland.

This small converting device can be installed in minutes and transform a firearm into a weapon that shoots continuously with one trigger pull. The result is an automatic weapon that can shoot up to 1,200 rounds a minute.

When used, the number of people shot and injured increases exponentially. A shooter no longer has to pull and release the trigger repeatedly, giving them a much faster rate of fire. This escalates violent situations and results in increasingly deadly outcomes for innocent bystanders and victims.

Furthermore, guns with these switches installed are the rising weapon of choice in Maryland. Police report these weapons are increasingly being involved in firearm incidents. Between 2023 and 2024, at least 100 of these illegally modified pistols were recovered.

Just in 2023, a suspect fired at police officers during a shootout near Patterson Park. The suspect had a modified Glock and was able to shoot 33 rounds. By removing these converted pistols from the world around us, we are not only protecting our communities but also our law enforcement officers. With an increased number of automatic weapons, our officers are at increased risk of being caught, literally in the crossfire, of these dangerous firearms.



What is even more alarming is that a majority of the individuals thought to be connected to these incidents are under the age of 21. My generation is impacted the most by this crisis. Young people are both the primary victims and perpetrators. The accessibility of these deadly weapons, combined with inadequate education and intervention, has created a dangerous cycle. I have the privilege of focusing on my future instead of living in fear of being drawn into gun violence. So many of my peers do not have this privilege. Without urgent action, more of these convertible pistols will be able to fall into the hands of Maryland's youth, exacting even more of a toll on our society.

Thankfully, there is a solution- easy design changes, and it is the responsibility of the firearms manufacturers to take this action. The companies are aware of the convertible nature of their firearms and have chosen not to make design changes. This industry racks in billions in profit every year while our communities reap the consequences. By allowing for the installation of illegal modifications, it is evident that these industries are more focused on prioritizing profits than public safety. This bill simply mandates that manufacturers take responsibility and make reasonable changes to their design.

We are at a crossroads: we can either allow these companies to continue their production of these vessels of destruction, or we can take a stand to protect our communities and save countless lives. Therefore, I strongly urge a favorable report for HB 1287.

Signed,
Layla Greten
Founder Team ENOUGH Baltimore