



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

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

I am writing today in support of HB 1287. 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 Brady United. We have seen firsthand how the presence of gun violence in our city affects students.

HB 1287 is a critical piece of legislation that would prevent the sale of pistols, such as Glocks, that are easily convertible into automatic firearms unless their production is altered. Auto sears, also known as “glock switches” are small, inexpensive devices that can turn firearms into automatic weapons capable of firing up to 1,200 rounds per minute. Though they are banned at the federal level, these devices are still available through illegal markets and 3D printing, contributing to the presence of automatic gunfire in our communities. They can be bought as cheaply as \$25 and made using 3D printing machines that can be easily accessed in almost every school. All you need is the trust of a teacher to print a mass shooting easily. Baltimore City and the state of Maryland are already suing Glock because of these convertible pistols.

The reality of gun violence is something that I and many other students live with every day. 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 their school?

Just two years ago, a shooting at Morgan State University involving a converted pistol injured five people quickly—one of many incidents that demonstrate how dangerous and accessible these devices have become. The presence of automatic weapons in our streets and near our schools is sickening, and it is unacceptable that students have to worry about their safety in places that should be a space for learning and growth. For my mother's second-grade students, they have to hide under desks, preparing for something they should never have to face.

By passing HB 1287, Maryland can take a crucial step in protecting students, educators, and entire communities affected by automatic gunfire. This will significantly reduce the number and possibility of mass shootings. I urge you to support this bill to help make students like me feel safer. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to addressing this issue.



I strongly urge a favorable report for HB 1287.

Sincerely,
Ben Barish
Team ENOUGH Baltimore