



Testimony of Luisa Depkin, Founder, Team ENOUGH Baltimore

Support for HB0934 [FAV]

Before the Maryland House Judiciary Committee

March 5th, 2025

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

My name is Luisa Depkin and I am a senior at Loch Raven High School and the founder and leader of Team ENOUGH Baltimore. Team ENOUGH is a youth led organization that works to fight gun violence. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 934.

It is a well settled fact that gun violence is the number one cause of death for children in the United States. While this fact is raised in most conversations surrounding firearms, it no longer delivers the impact that it used to. The US has become desensitized to the fact that children are dying everyday due to a lack of prevention and intervention of firearms. This is heartbreaking. People my age are dying for absolutely no reason.

HB 934 will approach the issue of gun violence in a more serious manner. Maryland's Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and INtervention was created and signed into existence during the 2024 legislative session. As such, the Center is relatively new. HB 934 would allow the Center to work with local violence prevention groups to deliver strategies for violence prevention that will be tailored to the specific needs of different areas in Maryland. Maryland is

incredibly diverse and different locations have different problems when it comes to gun violence. Of importance, this bill has no fiscal note, it simply increases the efficiency of the Center's outreach by allowing it to connect with organizations on the ground.

Gun violence prevention is critical. I've been through shooter drills in every location I can think of, but those are intervention methods designed to disrupt gun violence as it is happening. We need to stop gun violence before it happens and that means supporting communities, educating people, having proper mental health support, and empowering our state agencies to do the same.

This bill's unique approach to combating gun violence before it happens will lead to countless lives saved. As a student, I can tell you that clearly our current strategies of teaching children how to hide from school shooters, isn't working.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully urge this committee to make the world a better place for the generations that come after you by voting in favor of HB 934.

Signed,

Luisa Depkin

Founder, Team ENOUGH Baltimore