



Testimony of **Layla Greten, Team ENOUGH**  
Support for HB 387 [FAV]  
Before the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee  
February 13, 2025

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and other distinguished members of the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Layla Greten, and I am one of the founders of Team ENOUGH Baltimore – a youth-led initiative dedicated to gun violence prevention. I am writing today to voice my support for HB 387, the Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act, sponsored by Delegate Mireku-North.

This bill puts an excise tax on firearm suppliers which pays into a variety of different funds committed to violence-prevention and supporting victims of violence.

Organizations such as The Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund, The Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention, and The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center are vital parts of our community dedicated to serving those afflicted by violence. The work that these centers do, along with the other beneficiaries outlined in the bill, makes an incredibly positive impact and saves countless lives. Without the institution of such organizations in our community, we would not be able to combat violence, especially gun violence, on the same scale.

The bill also provides funding for the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund, established under the Education Article.

This fund aids the state in combating the rising mental health crisis among teens, specifically through the school system. I believe it is incredibly important for there to be adequate funding going into serving the youth who struggle with these issues. Mental health continues to be a pressing issue among our community and it is our responsibility to create strategies that schools can implement as early-intervention frameworks. The Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund would support schools in creating safe environments, expanding social-emotional learning, and improving access to behavioral health services which collectively reduces mental health challenges.

Therefore, it is imperative that these organizations receive proper funding. With this excise tax, these organizations would have the ability to serve more people and make a greater impact. The tax is a small measure which can have substantial impact.

At the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center - gunshot wounds make up for 9% of overall admission and 33% of deaths. With further funding, such as through this tax, the survival rate can continue to increase.

Furthermore, 87% of homicides in Baltimore were committed with a firearm. Despite the diligent work from our local violence prevention programs, we still see a huge amount of deaths and injuries due to gun-violence. It is only through further funding of these programs that we can make substantial change.

This legislation has the potential to save countless lives. Our thanks to your committee and the bill sponsor for your time and consideration on this matter. I strongly urge a favorable report for HB 387.

Signed,  
Layla Greten  
Founder, Team ENOUGH Baltimore

