



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 0118**

March 11, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 118 – Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 118.

SB 118 would establish an excise tax on certain firearms dealers for the sale of firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition as a means toward ensuring much-needed, sustainable funding for evidence-based gun violence prevention and intervention programs, as well as victim support initiatives. The bill would redirect earnings from firearm sales in Maryland to address the public health and financial burdens of gun violence, which costs the state \$10.5 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> Gun violence accounts for a substantial share of trauma-related healthcare costs, with medical care for gun violence survivors averaging \$30,000 in the first year after injury.<sup>2</sup>

The Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act would impose an 11 percent excise tax on firearm industry profits – not on consumers – and allocate the revenue generated to crucial prevention, intervention, and victim support programs. The initiatives that would be supported include the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention, which is focused on implementing comprehensive gun violence prevention strategies; the Maryland Shock Trauma Center, which plays a critical role in treating gun violence victims; the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP), which funds prevention and intervention work in communities most impacted by gun violence including those programs that are currently operational in Baltimore City; and the Maryland Trauma Physicians Services Fund, which helps medical systems to cover trauma-related healthcare costs.

In a time when the federal government is cutting funding for proven violence prevention work, SB 118 addresses an urgent need for sustainable funding for these efforts. For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 118.

<sup>1</sup> Marylanders To Prevent Gun Violence, Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act Fact Sheet (January 2025)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*