



## **Everytown for Gun Safety Testimony in Support of SB942**

**February 27, 2026**

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety I write in support of SB942, and request a favorable report.

SB942 enacts a process to temporarily disarm certain individuals who are ordered by a court to comply with assisted outpatient treatment. This bill balances individual civil liberties with public safety, making Maryland safer for individuals with persistent mental illness, their communities, and the public at large.

Nearly six out of every 10 gun deaths in the US are suicides, resulting in an average of 73 deaths a day.<sup>1</sup> In a recent national poll, 16 percent of respondents—or roughly 40 million American adults—reported that someone they care for attempted or died by suicide with a gun.<sup>2</sup> Removing access to firearms, a particularly lethal means, is the easiest and quickest intervention. Policies and practices that limit or disrupt access to firearms, such as those enabled by this bill, have been shown to save lives.

This bill temporarily disarms individuals who have been adjudicated by a court by clear and convincing evidence to need assisted outpatient treatment. Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) is an intervention that provides court-ordered care to individuals with serious mental illness who have demonstrated difficulty engaging in treatment. For these individuals, the court must make a separate determination whether the person is likely to endanger or cause physical injury to themselves or another if they have access to a firearm. If a court finds that that is likely, it shall order the individual to temporarily surrender their firearms and to not purchase firearms for the duration of the order. These firearm surrender orders expire when the order to compel AOT expires, restoring the right to own and purchase firearms.

The research shows that the difference between living to see a better day or dying by suicide is often determined by the presence of a gun. Over 27,000 people died of gun suicide in the United States in 2023, the highest number ever recorded, and 90% of suicide attempts with a firearm are lethal.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Provisional Mortality Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death (accessed December 16, 2025). Average: 2020 to 2024.

<sup>2</sup> SurveyUSA Market Research Study. Data collected from December 7, 2018 to December 11, 2018. <https://bit.ly/2ExxpyZ>.

<sup>3</sup> Everytown Research analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Provisional Mortality Statistics, Multiple Cause of Death (accessed December 16, 2025). Average: 2020 to 2024; Conner A, Azrael D, Miller M. Suicide Case-Fatality Rates in the

Temporarily removing access to firearms for people in AOT, who have shown a likelihood of physically harming themselves or others is one way to lower those numbers and save lives of Marylanders suffering from severe mental illness. This bill is an investment in the future of those people, their communities, and the state of Maryland.

Mary Kenah  
Everytown for Gun Safety