

**February 3, 2026**

Judiciary Proceedings Committee  
Maryland Senate  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Support for SB 334**

Dear Chair Smith,

On behalf of GIFFORDS, the gun violence prevention organization led by former Congresswoman, gun owner, and gun violence survivor Gabby Giffords, **I am writing to express our strong support for SB 334.** The bill will protect Marylanders from DIY machine guns by prohibiting the future sale of any pistol that can quickly and easily be converted into a machine gun by attaching an auto sear.

DIY machine guns are a growing threat to public safety. Fully automatic machine guns have been illegal under federal and state law for decades. Still, they can be made at home by attaching a cheap, Lego-sized piece of plastic or metal to a convertible pistol. In Maryland and across the country, communities are being endangered by pistols that have been illegally converted into fully automatic machine guns.

Despite being illegal, these devices have become pervasive in recent years with the help of online marketplaces and the rise of 3D printing technology. Many are produced in Russia and China, smuggled into the United States, and sold for around \$20. ATF's most recent data shows a **784% increase** in auto sears recovered by the agency between 2019 and 2023. Firearms equipped with these devices accounted for nearly 13% (11,088) of all privately made firearms (88,425) recovered and traced by the ATF between 2019 and 2023.

Pistols converted into DIY machine guns are extremely dangerous because they can fire up to 1,200 rounds per minute. Their recoil also makes them hard to control and shoot accurately. Shootings committed with these modified pistols can be deadlier because they allow shooters to spray bullets with a single pull of the trigger, endangering bystanders. This is an issue that sometimes benefits from viewing. We recommend that the committee demonstrate the firing difference between a normal semiautomatic pistol and one equipped with a Glock switch.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> WXYZ-TV Detroit Channel 7 did a story that includes trained Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) agents demonstrating the difference between a semi-automatic firing rate and one

Although Maryland law prohibits the devices used to convert pistols, it is time for Maryland law to also hold gun manufacturers responsible for producing products that are easily convertible into machine guns. **SB 334 is vital legislation to curb the sale of pistols that can be turned into homemade machine guns with no more than a screwdriver and a \$25 piece of plastic or metal.** This bill will protect Marylanders from DIY machine guns by prohibiting firearms dealers from selling pistols to the general public that can be converted into machine guns solely by attaching an auto sear. Enacting this law would make it clear to manufacturers of easily converted handguns that they must modify their products if they want to sell them in Maryland.

Sincerely,

*Erin Earp*

Senior Policy Attorney  
GIFFORDS