



Written Testimony of Tarria Stanley
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Senate Bill 0334, Criminal Law - Firearm Crimes - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols
Judicial Proceedings Committee
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Good afternoon, Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreichert, and esteemed committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Tarria Stanley, and I am here today on behalf of Community Justice. Community Justice is a national organization that advocates for gun violence prevention by empowering those closest to the pain to advance lifesaving solutions.

We submit this testimony in strong support of **Senate Bill 0334** because our communities are losing more people to these weapons—and we cannot afford to wait.

DIY machine guns are becoming more common in our neighborhoods, and the harm is escalating. Fully automatic firearms have long been illegal, yet pistols sold today can be easily converted into machine guns using a small device known as a Glock switch. These weapons can fire up to 20 rounds per second, turning everyday conflicts into mass-casualty events and making it nearly impossible to protect innocent bystanders.

In Maryland, modified pistols have been recovered across the state and were used in the October 2023 mass shooting at Morgan State University. In Baltimore alone, police recovered nearly twice as many modified Glockes in 2024 as the year before. Each recovery represents not just a statistic, but a life put at risk—families, students, and neighbors caught in the crossfire.

Our communities are doing the work every day to prevent violence and keep people safe. But when firearms are designed in ways that allow them to be easily transformed into illegal machine guns, that work is undermined. Most gun manufacturers already use designs that cannot be easily converted. A small number continue to put dangerous products into our communities, despite knowing the risks.

SB 0334 is a common-sense, preventative solution. It does not impact current gun owners or law enforcement. It simply ensures that new pistols sold in Maryland cannot be quickly and easily converted into machine guns.

Protecting public safety means protecting our communities. We respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 0334.

