

## OPPOSITION TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 334

(Criminal Law – Firearm Crimes – Machine Gun Convertible Pistols)  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Hearing: February 5, 2026  
Position: Oppose Senate Bill 334

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Galen Muhammad and I am the chapter president of Onyx Sharpshooters, the Forestville, MD chapter of United 2A Collective.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 334. While all stakeholders share the goal of reducing violent crime and keeping Maryland’s communities safe, I respectfully oppose this bill as currently drafted due to significant concerns about overbreadth, unintended consequences, and impacts on law-abiding individuals and the economy.

Maryland General Assembly

### 1. Overbroad Definition and Unintended Sweeping Ban

SB 334 would prohibit the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, purchase, receipt, or transfer of so-called “machine gun convertible pistols,” a category that, under current interpretations, could include many common semi-automatic handguns owned lawfully by Maryland residents today — including popular models with features that federal law already regulates.

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The proposal’s broad language lacks clear, objective criteria, creating ambiguity and enforcement challenges. Without precise definitions, ordinary semi-automatic pistols could be classified as prohibited solely because of their potential to theoretically be modified — even if such modifications remain illegal under federal law. This sweeping prohibition risks criminalizing everyday firearms owned by responsible citizens without a demonstrable link to actual harm.

### 2. Penalizes Law-Abiding Gun Owners, Not Criminals

Current federal law already prohibits possession and use of conversion devices such as auto sears, and penalties for illegal automatic weapons production and possession are well established. SB 334 effectively penalizes lawful owners and the lawful commerce in pistols — instead of targeting illegal possession or use of conversion devices themselves. Law-abiding Marylanders would be deprived of property and legal commerce without clear evidence that possession of these pistols contributes meaningfully to violent crime beyond what existing law already addresses.

### 3. Risks Economic and Enforcement Burdens

A broad ban on categories of commonly owned pistols would create substantial burdens: Law enforcement and courts would face increased challenges interpreting and enforcing ambiguous criteria. Retailers, collectors, and private sellers could lose significant inventory and investment without due process or compensation. Maryland's firearm-related businesses might suffer economic disruption from forced devaluation of lawful products.

### 4. Policy Should Target Criminal Misuse, Not Lawful Possession

While preventing violent crime is critically important, legislation must be carefully tailored to focus on criminal misuse rather than restricting the rights of individuals who comply with existing law. Broad restrictions on legal pistol ownership based on hypothetical misuse set a concerning precedent for future overreach.

### Conclusion

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to oppose Senate Bill 334 in its current form. If the legislature wishes to address firearm-related crime, the focus should be on strengthening enforcement against illegal conversion devices and criminal misuse, clarifying definitions, and ensuring that measures respect the rights of law-abiding gun owners while not unduly burdening lawful commerce and possession.

Thank you for your consideration.