



**Testimony in Support of the
Criminal Law - Firearm Crime - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols
Senate Bill 334 / House Bill 577
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Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) is a statewide organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries through evidence-based policy, public education, and survivor-centered prevention strategies. We support SB 334 / HB 577, Criminal Law - Firearm Crime - Machine Gun Convertible Pistols.

Maryland has already determined that pistol conversion devices such as Glock switches pose an unacceptable risk to public safety, enacting a statewide ban on these devices in 2024. That action was grounded in real incidents here at home, including the October 2023 mass shooting at Morgan State University, where a pistol equipped with a conversion device was used, and the continued recovery of modified pistols by law enforcement in Baltimore City and other jurisdictions. These cases demonstrate that even when possession of conversion devices is illegal, pistols designed in a way that readily accepts those devices remain uniquely dangerous and disproportionately attractive for criminal misuse.

SB 334/HB 577 responds to this reality by setting clear, prospective safety standards for the firearms industry, ensuring that handguns sold in Maryland are not designed in ways that allow rapid and simple conversion into machine guns. Many manufacturers already produce pistols that are not susceptible to this kind of conversion; SB 334/HB577 simply requires that all manufacturers selling into the Maryland market meet that same baseline expectation of product safety. By addressing preventable design vulnerabilities, without impacting current lawful owners or law enforcement use, the bill represents a measured, evidence-based approach to reducing the risk of extreme harm and strengthening accountability in the firearm industry.

We urge a favorable report on HB577.