



Everytown for Gun Safety Testimony in Support of HB 0577

February 9, 2026

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I submit this written testimony on behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, where I am Counsel for state legislative advocacy. On behalf of Everytown and our Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers across Maryland, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 334.

This bill would prohibit the future sale of semiautomatic pistols that are easily convertible into illegal machine guns. It goes without saying that machine guns are exceptionally lethal weapons designed for use on the battlefield, meant to inflict maximum damage in minimum time. Fully automatic machine guns are illegal under federal and state law, but certain types of pistols can easily be converted to DIY machine guns at home, even by people with little to no engineering skill, using only common household tools, like a screwdriver, and a tiny piece of plastic or metal commonly known as a “Glock switch.” DIY machine guns are extremely dangerous and are spreading throughout Maryland. They can fire at a rate of up to 20 rounds per second, allowing shooters to spray bullets with a single pull of the trigger with little recoil control.

Every firearm manufacturer should be taking steps to make sure their guns can’t be easily converted into DIY machine guns — but that’s not what’s happening. The majority of gun manufacturers use designs that aren’t susceptible to easy conversion. However, despite the explosion of a market for illegal pistol converters, and an uptick in crimes committed using fully automatic modified pistols, a small number of gun manufacturers, including Glock and others, continue to offer machinegun-convertible pistols on the civilian retail market. While Glock recently introduced new models with some small design changes, it appears that even with these changes its pistols remain easy to quickly convert into illegal machine guns with common household tools and a Glock switch.

The manufacturers using this design have the ability to stop the spread of DIY machine guns. They have chosen not to, putting profit over people. We need to address gun violence from every angle, including by removing these dangerous weapons from the marketplace until these manufacturers change their design so they cannot be easily converted into machine guns.

Maryland must continue to lead the fight to hold bad actors in the gun industry responsible for their role in worsening our gun violence crisis while respecting the rights and property of current firearm owners in the state.

On behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, I request a favorable report.

Mary Kenah
Everytown for Gun Safety