

HB 863: Gun Theft Felony Act of 2026: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 863**, *Gun Theft Felony Act of 2026*.

Stolen firearms frequently end up in the hands of criminals, contributing to violent crime, gang activity, and illegal trafficking across Maryland and beyond. Elevating this to a felony would send a clear message that stealing a gun is not a minor crime but a serious threat to community safety. **HB 863** aligns penalties more appropriately with the real-world harm caused, deters theft, and supports law enforcement in prosecuting those who enable gun violence through theft.

This bill **does not** broadly expand firearm regulations or infringe on lawful gun ownership—it simply ensures stronger accountability for those who steal firearms. Many other states already treat gun theft as a felony, and Maryland should follow suit to better protect residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 863** and help advance this commonsense measure to reduce stolen guns on our streets.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important public safety legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals