

Brady
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Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Daniel Sagrera, State Policy Manager, Brady Campaign to Prevent
Gun Violence
Support for [HB 577](#) Before the Maryland Senate Judiciary Committee
Feb 11, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and esteemed members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Founded in 1974, Brady works to change the law, change the industry, and change culture to free America from gun violence. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah’s legacy by uniting Americans across the country in the fight to prevent gun violence.

Brady is proud to support HB 577, which provides a strong defense to the proliferation and dangerous impact of DIY Machine Guns throughout the state of Maryland. It is past time for Maryland to take action – convertible pistols threaten the safety of Marylanders every single day.

I am writing to express my support for HB 577 which will protect Marylanders from DIY machine guns by prohibiting the future sale of any pistol that can quickly and easily be converted into a machine gun by attaching a so-called Glock switch — forcing the companies who design their pistols to easily accept these devices to stop selling them to civilians unless and until they fix the problem.

DIY machine guns are a growing threat to public safety. Fully automatic machine guns have been illegal under federal and state law for decades, but they can be made at home by attaching an auto-sear, which is a tiny piece of metal or plastic commonly known as a “Glock switch,” to a convertible pistol.

Shootings committed with these modified, fully automatic handguns can be significantly more deadly, since they allow shooters to spray bullets with a single pull of the trigger, endangering bystanders. In 2023, a pistol converted into a machine gun was used during a shooting that in a shooting that injured 5 people at Morgan State University in Baltimore.¹ In Baltimore alone, police recovered 65 modified Glocks in 2024.²

These DIY machine guns are flooding our streets because gun manufacturers have manufactured their pistols in a way that makes them uniquely easy to convert into illegal machine guns by attaching an auto-sear. Because these companies choose profits over public safety, anyone with one of these pistols, an auto-sear – which can be 3D-printed or purchased online for \$25 – and a screwdriver can turn their pistol into an illegal and extremely lethal machine gun in just a few minutes. The firearms industry has known about this problem for years, but has not taken responsibility for its easily convertible products and instead has refused to take serious action to fix its design.³ **When the firearm industry refuses to take action to prevent tragedies, Maryland lawmakers must act by prohibiting the sale of dangerous machine gun-convertible pistols.**

Maryland law already prohibits the devices used to convert pistols into machine guns, but it must take further steps to address the pistols themselves that are easily able to accept those devices. As long as Maryland gun dealers are selling pistols that can quickly and easily be turned into machine guns, this public safety threat will continue.

HB 577 solves this problem by prohibiting Maryland firearms dealers from selling pistols to civilians that are easily convertible to automatic fire through the use of an auto-sear. The bill is narrowly tailored to have no impact on current owners of these pistols, and to allow sales to continue to law enforcement and the military or naval forces for use in their official duties.

Sincerely,
Daniel Sagrera
State Policy Manager

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² SKENE, LEA. 2025. “Baltimore sues Glock over handguns that can easily be converted to automatic weapons.” AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/baltimore-maryland-glock-switches-lawsuit-353d491b044a3857a631887d495c2ce5>.

³ kare11.com. 2024. *EXTENDED INTERVIEW: Inventor of the Glock switch*. N.p.: KARE 11.

<https://www.kare11.com/video/news/local/kare11-extras/extended-interview-kare-11s-chris-hrapsky-talks-with-glock-switch-inventor/89-038b3731-7950-4dd2-b897-4160a21ca530>