



Everytown for Gun Safety Testimony in Support of HB741

February 23, 2026

Chair Bartlett and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of HB741, which would standardize training for firearms dealers and their employees.

Gun dealers play the important role of gatekeepers to firearm purchasers, and their conduct can contribute or prevent guns being diverted to the illegal market or made available to people who are likely to harm themselves or others. Despite these risks and the fact that gun dealers play a critical role in preventing gun violence, federal law does not sufficiently regulate them. Maryland must step in to do so, and an important aspect of dealing regulation is requiring training on recognizing the signs of illegal activity and knowing and understanding state and local laws.

Standardized and periodic training is an effective tool for dealers and their employees to ensure they are engaging in safe and legal business practices. It gives employees and dealers the knowledge to prevent straw purchasing, gun trafficking, and theft of firearms and ammunition.. The training will include, but would not be limited to, a review and update of state and federal laws with guidance on how to comply, how to identify straw purchasers, buyers who are a danger to themselves, and other potential bad actors. Those permitted and allowed to sell firearms should be required to complete some form of training before engaging in this industry. This bill requires dealers and their employees to annually take a training course and successfully pass an examination of at least 20 questions (with 70% or more correct as a passing score). This balances the need for dealer training with the demands of running a business, ensuring compliance with the law while not hindering business activity.

Training gun dealers and their employees can make a difference. The ATF has said that gun dealers "can significantly reduce the risk of straw purchasing at their store [by]... educating employees to recognize and respond to red flags indicating a possible straw purchase." By requiring training for all gun dealer employees, Maryland can prevent tragedy before it occurs and proactively fight crime.

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

Mary Kenah
Everytown for Gun Safety