



BILL NO: House Bill 197
TITLE: **Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act**
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
HEARING DATE: March 5, 2026
POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that works to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence. **MNADV urges a favorable report on HB 197.**

Maryland has made great strides in reducing gun violence, but keeping that momentum requires more than just good intentions—it requires steady funding. House Bill 197, the Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act, introduces a smart way to pay for it. By placing a small tax on the firearm industry, the state can fund trauma care and community safety initiatives without dipping into the General Fund. It’s a simple concept: those profiting from the industry help cover the public costs of gun violence.

We know that hospital-based interventions and local safety programs save lives, but they are currently at the mercy of fluctuating budgets. This bill changes that, building a reliable foundation for the work that actually keeps our neighborhoods safe. With federal funding on the decline, Maryland has a chance to step up. HB 197 is a common-sense win for public safety and fiscal responsibility alike.

House Bill 197, the Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act, is a fiscally responsible, public-health-driven solution to sustain Maryland’s progress in preventing and addressing gun violence. This legislation establishes a dedicated, long-term funding source for community violence intervention, trauma care, student behavioral health initiatives, and support for survivors of homicide victims.

At a time when federal funding for violence prevention is declining, Maryland has the opportunity to lead. House Bill 197 reflects fiscal responsibility and moral clarity, a smart strategy that protects both lives and state resources.

For the above reasons. **MNADV strongly urges a favorable report for House Bill 197.**

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ lruth@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 21401
Tel: 301-429-3601 ■ E-mail: info@mnadv.org ■ Website: www.mnadv.org