

March 3, 2026

Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 197, the Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act. I am a resident of District 8 and a volunteer with Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence.

As a Maryland taxpayer, it is estimated that I am paying \$1,731 each year to respond to gun violence in our state.¹ We need a sustainable, common-sense way to pay for the impact of gun violence. Placing an excise tax on firearm sales is this sustainable and common-sense solution.

As we have seen, budget shortfalls can endanger funding for important programs in Maryland. Losing funding for the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the Maryland Trauma Physicians Service Fund, or the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program would have deep, determinantal impacts on our communities. To save these services from the whims of annual state budgets, we need a sustainable, long-term funding solution.

Excise taxes on firearms sales have been established in California, Pennsylvania, Seattle, and Tacoma, Washington. A federal excise tax has been in place for generations.

Maryland taxpayers have paid so much to respond to gun violence. It is time for the industry – who profits off these sales – to contribute to paying for the detrimental impact of these products.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
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¹ Maryland to Prevent Gun Violence. <https://mdpgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-Safety-Funding-Act-Fact-Sheet-Updated-11726.pdf>