



**Committee:** House Ways and Means Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 197 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

**Hearing Date:** March 5, 2026

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 197 – Comprehensive Community Safety Act*. MASBHC represents ninety school-based health centers serving students in schools in high concentration of poverty across Maryland. We are deeply concerned about the impact of firearms on the health and wellbeing of Maryland students. Thirty-five percent of youth suicides in Maryland are caused by firearms.<sup>i</sup> The mental health of many students has been negatively impacted by the fear of gun violence at school or in their communities.<sup>ii</sup> We ask for a favorable report on this legislation, as the bill will provide much needed resources for community violence prevention and intervention efforts in Maryland. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://charlescountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/MDH-FirearmSafeStorageYouthSuicidePreve>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5784421/>