



## **Everytown for Gun Safety Testimony in Support of HB197**

**March 3, 2026**

Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety I write in support of HB197, sponsored by Delegate Mireku-North, and request a favorable report.

HB197, the Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act, would impose an 11% excise tax rate on the gross receipts of firearms dealers derived from retail sales of firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition. The bill exempts sales to law enforcement agencies, law enforcement officers, the Armed Forces of the United States, or the National Guard. The revenue from this tax will be distributed to the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund (26%), the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention within the Department of Health (26%), the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund (20%), the Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant Program (20%), and Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund and the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (4%, respectively).

This excise tax is smart gun safety policy, as it requires the gun industry to contribute to the same gun violence prevention programs made necessary by the nation's weak gun laws and easy access to firearms. The Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act will create an urgently needed, reliable, stable funding source for violence prevention and survivor support programs across Maryland, to support a holistic public health approach to reducing gun violence.

Gun violence costs Maryland [\\$10.5 billion each year, of which \\$383.9 million is paid by taxpayers](#). That means on average, the cost of gun violence in our state is \$1,731 per resident each year. A [report](#) from Everytown shows that even if a household doesn't have a gun, and even if communities experience different levels of gun violence, we all bear the financial burden of this epidemic. All while the gun industry makes billions every year, profiting from the harm it causes in Maryland communities. Imposing this tax on gun dealers will help to cover the financial price of gun violence paid by Maryland taxpayers each year, putting the burden on an industry that directly contributes to the problem.

Mary Kenah  
Policy Counsel, Everytown for Gun Safety