



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

**The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 197/Senate Bill 118 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act.** This legislation represents a meaningful step toward addressing gun violence, expanding public safety resources, and ensuring that Maryland invests in community-based solutions that prevent harm, support victims, and strengthen systemic responses to violence. **This bill is a 2026 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.**

House Bill 197/Senate Bill 118 imposes an excise tax on certain gross receipts of firearm dealers from sales of firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition in the State. The revenues generated under this bill will be directed toward proven violence prevention and intervention programs, including the Maryland Violence Intervention Program, the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention, the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership, the Survivors of Homicide Victims Program, the Trauma Physician Services Fund, and the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. By designating dedicated funding streams for these critical supports, the bill ensures that communities most impacted by violence receive sustained investment rather than sporadic or short-term funding.

Maryland continues to face far too many lives disrupted or lost to gun violence. Black Marylanders and other communities of color are disproportionately affected by firearm-related injuries and deaths, and too often face under-resourced social supports and public safety systems. House Bill 197/Senate Bill 118 helps begin to close those gaps. Allocating funding toward trauma care, intervention, coordinated supports, and survivor assistance strengthens public health and safety holistically; connecting prevention with healing, and investing in long-term stability for families and neighborhoods.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland urges favorable consideration of House Bill 197/ Senate Bill 118.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland