

For Immediate Release
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Marylanders To Prevent Gun Violence Launches Broad Coalition to Support Efforts to Curb Gun Violence in Maryland

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Annapolis, MD (January 18, 2013) – Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence launched a broad-based coalition today to support efforts to curb gun violence in Maryland. The coalition will be led by longtime public health advocate and national leader, Vincent DeMarco, and include faith-based, public health and public safety officials to advocate for comprehensive measures aimed at preventing gun violence.

“We thank Governor O’Malley for his leadership on this critical issue, and look forward to working with the Administration to advocate for effective measures to curb gun violence in Maryland,” said Vincent DeMarco, President of Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence.

The coalition will support common-sense measures that the Maryland General Assembly can take to reduce gun violence, including efforts to ban assault weapons designed for maximum lethality, limit magazine capacity, and require licensing for purchases of handguns, including mandatory fingerprinting and safety training.

“We know that states with a licensing requirement have lower gun violence death rates because licensing deters straw purchasers from buying handguns for criminals. Marylanders To Prevent Gun Violence will mobilize the broad public support in support of these responsible, common-sense measures to prevent gun violence.”

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a 501(c)(4) whose board members include Bishop Douglas Miles, former Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, civic and business leader Connie Caplan, Sandy Ferguson, Director of Connectional Ministries for the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, Art Abramson, Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewish Council, and Eastern Shore community leader Michael Pretl.

The coalition has retained Rick Abbruzzese of Rifkin, Livingston, Levitan& Silver, LLC for government relations and strategic communications, Len Lucchi of O’Malley, Miles and Nylen and Gilmore for government relations, and Colleen Martin-Lauer and Sophia Silbergeld of Martin-Lauer & Associates for fundraising.

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