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marylanderstopreventgunviolence.org

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**Statement by Vincent DeMarco, President
Marylanders To Prevent Gun Violence,
on Larry Hogan and Gun Violence Prevention**

Marylanders To Prevent Gun Violence joins Marylanders across the state who support the Firearms Safety Act and other Maryland gun violence prevention laws in expressing our deep concern about statements allegedly made by gubernatorial candidate Larry Hogan that he would try to weaken these life saving measures if he is elected governor. (see http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/gun-rights-advocates-warming-to-hogan-promises/2014/10/05/b9d45470-4a59-11e4-b72e-d60a9229cc10_story.html)

Maryland needs a governor who would not try to weaken these laws, but would instead do all he could do to fully implement all of Maryland's gun violence prevention laws on the books. In particular, we need a governor who will not weaken Maryland's law regulating the carrying of concealed weapons and would fully fund and implement all of the public safety protections in the Firearms Safety Act, especially the fingerprint licensing of handgun purchasers and the new state authority to regulate firearms dealers.

We demand that Mr. Hogan publicly release the questionnaire that he filled out for the NRA based upon which that organization recently gave him an A- grade so that we can know if he would be such a pro-public safety governor. We also demand that Mr. Hogan publicly respond as soon as possible to the October 1 Baltimore Sun editorial asking both candidates for governor to answer specific questions about how they would implement the Firearms Safety Act of 2013. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown has responded that he would do all he could to fully fund and implement the Firearms Safety Act.

Maryland lawmakers have worked hard over the years to enact some of the best gun violence prevention laws in the Nation, most importantly the Firearms Safety Act of 2013. Although it is too early to directly tie any progress to that new law, we know that in the first eight months of 2014 there has been a 15% drop in gun deaths compared to the first eight months of 2013. And we know that other states, which have had the Firearms Safety Act's key fingerprint licensing provision for decades, have significantly lower gun death rates than similar states that do not have this provision in place. The people of Maryland need to know that our next governor will do all he can to make sure this law, and all of our gun violence prevention laws, are fully enforced and implemented to save lives.