



## **Testimony of Everytown for Gun Safety Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways & Means Committee in Support of PPGG Part C**

Senator Liz Kruger  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Assemblymember J. Gary Pretlow  
Chair, Assembly Ways & Means Committee

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Senator Krueger, Assemblymember Pretlow, and Members of the New York State Legislature:

My name is Elisabeth Ryan and I submit this written testimony on behalf of Everytown for Gun Safety, where I serve as Policy Counsel and support state legislative advocacy for laws and policies that are proven to prevent gun violence. On behalf of Everytown and our Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers across New York, I urge that the Senate and Assembly support Part C of the Governor's Proposed Public Protection and General Government (PPGG) Article VII bill, which regulates DIY machine guns and 3D-printed firearms, and include it in your respective one-house budget proposals.

PPGG Part C will take the following vital steps to **prevent the spread of illegal DIY machine guns and 3D-printed ghost guns**:

- (1) Require gun manufacturers selling pistols in New York state to design their pistols so they cannot quickly and easily be turned into illegal machine guns;
- (2) Require that all 3D printers sold in the state be equipped with technology that will block any files designed to produce firearms, their parts, and illegal accessories; and
- (3) Prohibit the sale and distribution of digital design files that make 3D-printed firearms.

### **DIY MACHINE GUNS**

**DIY machine guns are a growing threat to public safety.** Fully automatic machine guns are generally illegal under both federal and state law, but certain types of semi-automatic pistols can quickly and easily be converted into machine guns, even by people with little to no engineering skill, using common household tools and a tiny piece of plastic or metal called an "auto sear," commonly known as a "[Glock switch](#)." These auto sears are also illegal to possess under both federal and state law; however, because they are so small, they can easily be smuggled in from overseas and trafficked. As a result, they remain easy to purchase illegally online for as little as \$25. They can also be 3D-printed at home.

**DIY Machine Guns are extremely dangerous and are spreading throughout New York.** They can fire at a rate of [20 rounds per second](#), allowing shooters to spray bullets with a single pull of the trigger. Their recoil also makes them hard to control and shoot accurately, significantly increasing the danger to bystanders. Modified pistols equipped with switches have become a weapon of choice for criminals and have been recovered or used in crimes all across New York State, including in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, New York City, Poughkeepsie, Suffolk County, Troy, and Tuckahoe.

**Every firearm manufacturer should be taking steps to make sure their guns can't be easily converted into machine guns — but that's not what's happening.** The majority of gun manufacturers use designs that aren't susceptible to easy conversion. However, despite the explosion of a market for illegal pistol converters, and an uptick in crimes committed using fully automatic modified pistols, a small number of gun manufacturers continue to offer machinegun-convertible pistols on the civilian retail market. Last fall, California became the first state to [pass a law](#) prohibiting the future sales of these easily-convertible pistols.

**Part C will strengthen product safety standards and protect New Yorkers by requiring gun manufacturers selling pistols in New York state to design their pistols so they cannot quickly and easily be turned into machine guns.** State law currently prohibits the devices used to convert semi-automatic pistols into machine guns. It should be strengthened to also prohibit future sales of the pistols that can be easily turned into machine guns, simply by installing one of those devices. This proposal turns the focus upstream: by requiring manufacturers to design their firearms in a way that ensures that they are not easily modifiable, they will be motivated to change their dangerous practices and, when they do, New Yorkers will be made safe from the acute danger posed by the proliferation of easily-convertible pistols and Glock switches.

**The proposal would not require current gun owners to modify or get rid of convertible pistols they already own.** It does not criminalize or impact individual gun owners who possess these guns. It would not require current owners of convertible pistols to modify their weapons or relinquish their guns. It would not impact their ability to use and carry them in any way, if licensed to do so. It would also not bar future sales to law enforcement officers, agencies, or members of the military.

**New York voters overwhelmingly support the regulation of DIY machine guns.** A [poll](#), conducted in January 2026 by SurveyUSA, found that **75% of voters in the state support requiring gun manufacturers to design their pistols so they cannot be easily converted into fully automatic weapons.**

**New York recoveries of modified firearms, convertible pistols, and Glock switches:**

- In 2022, a man [stormed into a hotel](#) armed with a Glock equipped with a switch and killed a man visiting his son at Marist College in **Poughkeepsie** in an unprovoked attack.
- A [joint investigation](#) by the NYSAG, NYPD, NYSP, and the DEA busted a firearms trafficking scheme based in **Suffolk County and Queens** involving ghost guns, assault weapons, switches, high-capacity magazines, and other dangerous products. The investigation found eighteen firearms outfitted with switches.
- In 2024 in **Harlem**, two men were arrested for [carjacking](#) an NYPD Sergeant's vehicle at gunpoint. One of them had a 40 caliber Glock equipped with a switch.
- In June 2025, **Albany** Police Chief Brendan Cox [spoke in support](#) of legislation to prevent DIY machine guns and demonstrated examples of switches recovered in Albany.
- In July 2025, a 16, 17, and 20-year-old [were charged with attempted murder](#) after a shots-fired incident in **Syracuse**. The two teens were the shooters and the 20-year-old was the getaway driver. A search warrant uncovered three Glocks, one of which was modified, and narcotics. The modified Glock was found at the 16-year-old's residence.
- **Buffalo** police reported in January 2023 that they were [seeing an increasing amount](#) of auto sears. In July 2023, they [recovered a Glock and a switch](#) at the scene of a shooting where a man had been struck by gunfire multiple times, and responded to a [murder scene](#) where a Glock switch was present.
- In **Troy** in 2023, an 18-year old man [pled guilty](#) to possessing three machine gun conversion devices and a Glock handgun outfitted with another one, and also admitted to selling more of the devices.
- Police [arrested](#) a **Brooklyn** man in 2022 for 3-D printing ghost guns and Glock switches.
- There are many [examples](#) in **Rochester** in recent years of people being [charged](#) or [arrested](#) in connection with selling switches or [found to be in possession](#) of guns that were [converted to](#) machine guns.
- A **Tuckahoe** man [pled guilty](#) in 2023 to selling a ghost gun and a Glock switch. The investigation revealed he had sold numerous Glock switches to other customers in the past.
- In 2024, a **Bronx** man was arrested for possession of numerous fully automatic firearms, and [dozens](#) of machinegun conversion devices.

#### **National Stats and examples:**

- Between 2019 and 2023, the [ATF recorded](#) 11,088 machine gun conversion devices (MCDs) being recovered, including Glock switches. In that period, MCD recoveries **increased by 784%**, with [5,816 recovered in 2023 alone](#).
- **Chicago** Police [recovered](#) more than 1,100 modified Glocks from 2021 through 2023. Federal law enforcement and local police also arrested 41 people involved in a [firearms trafficking ring](#) in August 2025, recovering 171 firearms and 64 machine gun conversion devices.

- In 2022 in **Sacramento**, a handgun converted into a machine gun [was used](#) during a gun battle that [killed six and injured twelve](#), in what has been called Sacramento’s deadliest mass shooting.
- In **Dallas**, ATF’s Field Office [recovered](#) 36 Glock switches in 2021 and 1,026 in 2022, a 2,750% year-to-year increase.

### **3D PRINTED FIREARMS**

Three-dimensional printing is a [rapidly growing manufacturing method](#) for people who want to get around New York’s strong gun safety laws and illegally manufacture untraceable ghost guns and deadly and illegal firearm accessories like switches. Law enforcement agencies across the state and the country are now battling an emerging “[plastic pipeline](#)” of these deadly homemade weapons and parts. 3D-printed firearms (3DPFs) are ghost guns, which are unserialized and untraceable firearms that anyone – including people with violent criminal histories, domestic abusers, and even children – can 3D print and assemble at home with no background check and no questions asked.

**Over the past decade, 3D printers have improved in capabilities, dropped in price, and exploded in popularity.** Entry-level models now cost as little as \$250 and are widely available online. These printers are capable of creating the critical components of firearms and anyone with internet access can go online and find thousands of digital design files that program printers to manufacture guns and gun parts. Law enforcement agencies in New York, its neighboring states, and [across the country](#) have recovered 3DPFs from violent [extremists](#), gun traffickers, and people unable to obtain a firearm legally. In 2025, New York City police [warned](#) of the “explosive growth” of 3DPFs.

New York has prohibited the possession and sale of [ghost guns](#) since 2022, but the increasing use of 3D printers to make ghost guns - rather than unfinished “parts kits” that were prevalent in the years leading up the passage of those laws - means New York’s law must evolve to address this emerging threat. Part C will:

- (i) require that all 3D printers sold in the state be equipped with technology that will block the 3D printing of any files designed to produce firearms, their core component parts, and illegal firearm accessories, like Glock switches;
- (ii) prohibit the sale and distribution of the digital design files that make 3DPFs; and
- (iii) expand prohibitions on the unlicensed manufacture of firearms and their major components to ensure that the only people who manufacture firearms in New York state obtain the state and federal licenses required to do so.

**The Governor’s budget proposal would make New York the first state in the nation to expand its approach to ghost guns by focusing on preventing 3D printers from creating**

**them in the first place.** The bill would require manufacturers of 3D printers to equip their products with software that will block the execution of any file designed to make guns, core gun components, or illegal gun accessories such as switches and other rapid fire devices. The proposal would also outlaw the distribution and use of these digital files to or by anyone who is not a state and federally licensed gunsmith.

**New York voters overwhelmingly support this policy.** A [poll](#), conducted in January 2026 by SurveyUSA, found that **74% of New Yorkers support requiring 3D printers to be equipped with software that blocks the illegal printing of firearms.**

#### **New York and 3D printed ghost gun examples:**

- This month, police arrested a [teenager](#) in **Buffalo**, who was using a 3D printer to make firearms and parts.
- Also this month, police arrested an **Albany** man [carrying](#) a loaded 3D-printed firearm in his vehicle, which led to the discovery of a vast collection that included 25 ghost guns (13 handguns and 22 assault weapons) and more than 200 3D-printed lower handgun receivers and rifle frames.
- A postal worker in **Brooklyn** was recently arrested for [possession](#) of six 3D-printed ghost guns in his home.
- In late 2025, a police investigation of a **Port Jefferson** man turned up [multiple](#) 3D printed firearms and parts, including assault weapon components.
- In the same month, police in **Queens** [recovered](#) a “lethal arsenal,” which included seven completed ghost guns and eight 3D-printed Glock-style frames.
- A **North Amityville** man has been charged with [manslaughter](#) after shooting and killing his friend with a 3D-printed gun.
- A **Staten Island** business owner was [arrested](#) after law enforcement recovered several ghost guns and 3D-printed handgun receivers.

#### **Recent 3D-printed ghost gun examples from around the country:**

- The California Attorney General just filed a [lawsuit](#) against multiple companies for distributing computer code for 3D printing ghost guns, machine gun conversion devices, illegal large-capacity magazines, and other firearm-related products and components to individuals who are not licensed to manufacture firearms in California.
- An Oklahoma man was indicted for trying to sell 3D-printed [weapons](#) to a man he believed to be a member of Al-Qaida.
- Authorities in Massachusetts arrested a man for running a gun [distribution](#) ring that primarily sold 3D-printed firearms.
- Connecticut authorities arrested two brothers for running a suspected 3D-printed firearm [manufacturing](#) ring.