



BILL NO: House Bill 871
TITLE: Handgun Permit – Preliminary Approval
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: March 9, 2022
POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 871.**

Higher rates of firearm ownership correlate to a higher rate of domestic violence homicide according to a 2019 study.¹ There is a 65% higher incidence rate of domestic firearm homicide in the states with the highest firearm ownership compared to states with lower ownership rates.² Since women are the most common victims of domestic violence homicide, they are most at risk with increased gun ownership.³ Black women are disproportionately the victims of domestic violence homicide with a firearm with an estimated 51.3% of Black adult female homicides found to be related to intimate partner violence.⁴ The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.⁵

Guns are used in a variety of ways by perpetrators of domestic violence. Guns are not only used by abusers to shoot their victims but are used to threaten a victim, intimidate a victim, and used to pistol-whip a victim.⁶ Approximately 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened by intimate partners with firearms and 1 million have been shot or shot at by their abusers.⁷

¹ Kivisto, A.J., Magee, L.A., Phalen, P.L., Ray, B.R. (2019). Firearm ownership and domestic versus nondomestic homicide in the U.S. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Abstract: [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(19\)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(19)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation)

² Merovsh, Sarah. "Gun Ownership Rates Tied to Domestic Homicides, but Not Other Killings, Study Finds," NY Times, (July 22, 2019) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/us/gun-ownership-violence-statistics.html>

³ *Id.*

⁴ Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.

⁵ The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

⁶ Zeoli, A.M., *Non-Fatal Firearm Uses in Domestic Violence*, The Battered Women's Justice Project, 2017. <https://www.preventdvgunviolence.org/nonfatal-gun-dv-zeoli-.pdf>

⁷ Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: A systematic review of the literature. Trauma, Violence, & Abuse

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Current Maryland law sets reasonable standards to obtain a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun including the requirement that a person complete a firearms training course approved by the Secretary of State Police. House Bill 871 would allow an applicant to wear, carry or transport a firearm for up to four months or 120 days with no safety training.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges an unfavorable report on HB 871.**

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