



# Governor's Family Violence Council

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Chairman Luke H. Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Room 101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HOUSE BILL 0003 – Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Governor's Family Violence Council supports House Bill 0003, a bill that alters the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State. Additionally, each law enforcement agency would be required to report to the Center the number and type of firearms surrendered, the jurisdictions where the firearms were surrendered, and certain information regarding the individual who surrendered each firearm under final protective orders.

One of the most important safety tools victims of domestic violence use is the protective order. Every final protective order requires the respondent to surrender their firearms to law enforcement. Domestic violence advocates have long been concerned that respondents are not surrendering all of their firearms. There have been several high profile cases where respondents have either not surrendered their firearms or only surrendered some of their firearms and subsequently shot and killed their victims. Currently, different law enforcement agencies have different protocols for tracking the surrender of firearms. Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861 which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center. The Center is "a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state." This bill would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. It would be the first step in analyzing whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective.

If enacted, this bill will give us data about whether Maryland is effectively getting firearms out of the hands of respondents in final protective orders. House Bill 0003 aligns with the mission of the Governor's Family Violence Council which is to provide recommendations that will reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors.

For these reasons, the Governor's Family Violence Council urges a favorable report on House Bill 0003.

Sincerely,

**Jeanne Yeager (HR)**

Jeanne Yeager  
Chair

**Dorothy Lennig (dlennig@hruthmd.org) (HR)**

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