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January 25, 2023

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB0003 Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under
Final Protective Orders (Support)

We write to urge the Judiciary Committee to favorably report House Bill 3, Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett's bill to require the Maryland State Police Gun Center ("MSP Gun Center") to track, screen, and vet all firearms surrendered under a final protective order issued under MD FAMILY LAW § 4-501.

Under current law, the MSP Gun Center already maintains a statewide database to track information on crimes committed with firearms. This commonsense legislation merely adds tracking firearms surrendered under a final protective order in the case of domestic violence to the list of firearms so tracked. The bill further requires law enforcement agencies throughout the State to report to the MSP Gun Center the following information with respect to firearms surrendered under a final protective order: (1) the number and types of firearms; (2) the jurisdictions from whence the firearms are surrendered; and (3) information regarding the individual who surrendered the firearm's age, residence, and any other information requested by the MSP Gun Center.

The Attorney General is a strong proponent of protecting domestic violence victims from their perpetrators and this bill will assist in doing so. For all of the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 3.

cc: Committee Members