



VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

January 25, 2023

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support – HB3 – Maryland State Police Gun Center - Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

House Bill 3 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. It also requires each law enforcement agency 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.

The Montgomery County Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) advises the County Council and County Executive on assisting the needs of victims of a broad range of violent crimes, including rape, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The number and severity of sexual assault and domestic violence cases referred to Montgomery County HHS Trauma Services increased substantially in the last several years when comparing intake data. Enhanced knowledge about the appropriate surrender of firearms in these cases can save lives.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861 (CH 142), which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center as a statewide enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state. The expansion of the role of this Center will further allow an added layer of knowledge and protection to victims with final protective orders. Each law enforcement agency would have to report information received about any and all firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order.

VSAB asks the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 3.

Sincerely,

Neda Bolourian
VSAB Co-chair

Department of Health and Human Services