



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports the following national statistics¹:

- 20 people experience violence by an intimate partner every minute.
- 1 in 7 children experienced abuse or neglect in the past year.
- 50% of women and 20% of men experience sexual violence in their lifetime.

These statistics are alarming. Violence of this magnitude contributes to a social and economic burden that threatens the security of the state of Maryland. Victims of violence must grapple with the trauma they faced for their lifetime. This experienced trauma can lead to numerous negative outcomes including lost productivity in the workplace, poorer health outcomes, and a higher likelihood for mental illness or substance use disorder.

In addition to the cost of human potential, violence costs taxpayers millions and millions of dollars annually. Estimates from the Giffords Law Center estimate that gun violence alone costs Maryland taxpayers \$294 million per year. ²

Violence is preventable and Maryland needs to think upstream in its response. There are evidence-based programs available that can reduce human suffering and can provide a substantial return on investment.

Understanding that violence is preventable and evidence- based prevention works, The Partnership for a Safer Maryland supports funding the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and Advisory Council as proposed in SB708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

Marianne Gibson

President

Centers for Disease Prevention & Control: Injury Prevention & Control:

https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/overview/key_data.html

² Giffords Law Center: <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Cost-of-Gun-Violence-in-Maryland.pdf>