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DO THE MOST GOOD—MONTGOMERY COUNTY

BILL NO: HB35

DATE: January 22, 2020

BILL TITLE: Public Safety-Firearm Telematics-Study

COMMITTEE: Judiciary Committee

POSITION: *SUPPORT* **BILL CONTACT:** Delegate Pam Queen

To: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, House Judiciary Committee and Committee Members,

Gun violence is America's plague. It needlessly ends lives, devastates families, results in deteriorating public safety, and tarnishes the reputation of the United States internationally.

I am the executive director of DoTheMostGood—Montgomery County, a progressive organization with more than 1500 members. One of the priorities of our organization is to support the enactment of legislation which could reduce gun violence. House Bill 35 is a meaningful step.

With advances in technology, it seems possible to install an electronic sensor or equipment on a firearm that would allow tracking the location of a firearm if it becomes lost or stolen. This bill would mandate the Department of State Police to conduct a study that would analyze the current research and development of firearm telematics; evaluate the technical feasibility of incorporating telematics into firearms that have already been manufactured; determine the type of firearms to which telematics could be incorporated; determine the current availability of telematics; and provide recommendations on what are the most feasible methods to utilize telematics to recover lost or stolen firearms.

Current Maryland law requires the reporting to local law enforcement within 72 hours of discovering the loss or theft of handguns and assault weapons. However, it is difficult for law enforcement to locate or recover these lost or stolen weapons without tracking technology. Enactment of HB35 could lead to recommendations and enactment of subsequent telematics requirements that would be of great value to our law enforcement officials by helping prevent the unlawful possession and use of guns and assault weapons.

Therefore, DoTheMostGood recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB35.

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