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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 23, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 126
PEACE ORDERS – WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

Workplace violence has become an all too common phenomenon. In September of 2018, within 24 hours, three different workplaces in the U.S. were shattered by gunfire. One of those occurrences happened on September 13, 2018 at the Rite Aid Distribution Center in Aderdeen when a temporary employee killed three of her co-workers before killing herself.

On October 18, 2017, an employee of Advance Granite in Hartford County gathered his co-workers and then shot them, killing 3 and critically wounding 2. At his prior place of employment, he was fired and his former boss attempted to get a temporary restraining order but was unsuccessful.

On June 28, 2018, a shotgun was used to shoot into the nearby offices of the Capital Gazette killing 5 employees and injuring 2 employees. Recently, on February 15, 2019, Gary Martin opened fire with a Smith & Wesson on the day [he was fired from the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, Illinois](#), killing 5 workers and wounding five police officers.

House Bill 126 provides employers a tool to address workplace violence. The bill authorizes an employer to file a petition for a peace order that alleges the commission of **specific acts** against the petitioner's employee at the employee's workplace. The bill simply extends existing statutory provisions relating to the filing, issuance, and modification of peace orders, as well as the shielding of related court records, to peace orders filed by employers on this basis. An employer is immune from any civil liability that may result from the failure of the employer to file a petition for a peace order on behalf of an employee.

I thank the committee for its time and consideration of this matter and respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 126.