



BILL NO: House Bill 773
TITLE: Public Safety - Firearm Telematics – Study
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: February 24, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 773.**

House Bill 773 would require the Handgun Roster Board under the Department of State Police to *study* and make recommendations about firearm telematics. Firearm telematics is technology that can be used to locate a firearm. Notably, there is no fiscal note for this study. The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.¹ MNADV supports this study since we are hopeful that its results could increase firearm safety, help in locating firearms that were used in a domestic violence offense or other crime, and prevent prohibited persons from possessing firearms.

Guns are used in a variety of ways by perpetrators of domestic violence. Guns are not only used by abusers to shoot their victims but are used to threaten a victim, intimidate a victim, and used to pistol-whip a victim.² Approximately 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened by intimate partners with firearms and 1 million have been shot or shot at by their abusers.³ Women who are threatened or assaulted with a gun are 20 times more likely than other women to be murdered.⁴

¹ The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

² Zeoli, A.M., *Non-Fatal Firearm Uses in Domestic Violence*, The Battered Women’s Justice Project, 2017. <https://www.preventdvgunviolence.org/nonfatal-gun-dv-zeoli.pdf>

³ Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: A systematic review of the literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*

⁴ Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., Block, C. R., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., Gary, F., McFarlane, J., Sachs, C., Sharps, P., Ulrich, Y., & Wilt, S. A. (2003, November). *Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice (NIJ). p.16. <https://www.fcadv.org/sites/default/files/Campbell%2020032.pdf>

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Higher rates of firearm ownership correlate to a higher rate of domestic violence homicide according to a 2019 study.⁵ There is a 65% higher incidence rate of domestic firearm homicide in the states with the highest firearm ownership compared to states with lower ownership rates.⁶ Since women are the most common victims of domestic violence homicide, they are most at risk with increased gun ownership.⁷

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence** urges a **favorable report on HB 773**.

⁵ Kivisto, A.J., Magee, L.A., Phalen, P.L., Ray, B.R. (2019). Firearm ownership and domestic versus nondomestic homicide in the U.S. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Abstract:

[https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(19\)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(19)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation)

⁶ Merovsh, Sarah. "Gun Ownership Rates Tied to Domestic Homicides, but Not Other Killings, Study Finds," NY Times, (July 22, 2019) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/us/gun-ownership-violence-statistics.html>

⁷ *Id.*

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