



**BILL NO:** House Bill 1186  
**TITLE:** Office of the Attorney General - Firearm Crime, Injuries, Fatalities, and Crime Firearms - Study Extension  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** March 3, 2021  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

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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 1186.**

In 2020, there were 56 individuals in Maryland that lost their lives due to domestic violence. Guns were the cause of 75% of those deaths. This is the highest number of domestic violence deaths in five years. MNADV believes that the study in HB 1186 could help identify critical information that could be used to develop policy and hopefully prevent further domestic violence deaths.

Higher rates of firearm ownership correlate to a higher rate of domestic violence homicide according to a 2019 study.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Since women are the most common victims of domestic violence homicide, they are most at risk with increased gun ownership.<sup>3</sup> Black women are disproportionately the victims of domestic violence homicide with a firearm with an estimated 51.3% of Black adult female homicides found to be related to intimate partner violence.<sup>4</sup> The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.<sup>5</sup>

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-

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<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> 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>

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

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whip a victim.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> Women who are threatened or assaulted with a gun are 20 times more likely than other women to be murdered.<sup>8</sup>

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 1186.**

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<sup>6</sup> 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>

<sup>7</sup> Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: A systematic review of the literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*

<sup>8</sup> 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>