



**BILL NO:** House Bill 859  
**TITLE:** Maryland Arms Protection Act  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** March 9, 2022  
**POSITION:** **OPPOSE**

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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 House Judiciary Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 859.**

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>

The Supreme Court stated in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that “[l]ike most rights, the right secured by the *Second Amendment* is not unlimited.”<sup>6</sup> House Bill 859 would eviscerate existing law and would prohibit the enforcement of certain federal laws relating to firearms, firearm accessories, and firearm ammunition and require the Attorney General to defend a resident of the State in certain federal prosecutions. Of the 58 domestic violence related deaths in Maryland in 2021, 76% were caused by guns.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges an unfavorable report on HB 859.**

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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/>

<sup>6</sup> *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 626 (2008).

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