

DVCC Letter in Support SB 185 final.pdf

Uploaded by: Brett Engler

Position: FAV

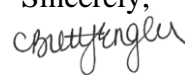


The Honorable William Smith & Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chairperson, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairperson Smith and Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Frederick County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) writes in support of Senate Bill 185: Maryland State Gun Center--Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders. The Frederick County DVCC is a multidisciplinary group of criminal and civil justice stakeholders, service providers, and community members, collaborating with the goal of reducing and preventing domestic violence in Frederick County.

Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include collecting and tracking data on firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. The firearm surrender process is run at the county level, with no State-level tracking currently. The newly formed Maryland Gun Center would be a natural fit to collect data on a State-wide level on firearm surrenders. This data would assist in understanding where counties may be falling short in seizing firearms ordered to be surrendered, and what protocols best ensure that abusers are disarmed. Guns in the hands of domestic abusers subject to final protective orders pose a threat to the safety of victims, their children, and the public at large. This legislation would strengthen Maryland's commitment to the safety of domestic violence victims, and we strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 185.

Sincerely,

Chairperson

Frederick County DVCC

SB0185 Firearms Surrendered Under Protective Orde

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0185
Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

Bill Sponsor: Senator Beidle

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0185 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Although not everyone can agree on the amount of oversight that the State should have regarding firearms, pretty much everyone can agree that firearms in the hands of people who are not stable is a very bad situation. Our members support the requirement that individuals must surrender their firearms once they have been placed under a final protective order. We believe that is sound policy that will protect the public.

The piece that is missing in this solution is monitoring. We don't really monitor that everyone who is under a protective order has surrendered their firearms; what happened to the firearms that were surrendered; and who is managing them. That is what this legislation will do. It will empower the Maryland State Police Gun Center to track, screen and vet the firearms that should have been surrendered and ensure that they have truly been surrendered and are being managed properly by the state.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Priority Amendments

Building electrification and efficiency:

- Climate Catalytic Capital Fund
 - Explicitly state that 40% of funds from the Climate Catalytic Capital Fund be spent in low and moderate-income neighborhoods and that funds can be spent on whole-structure retrofits (including multi-family buildings) including health, safety, weatherization, and electrification measures.
 - The purpose of the funds should explicitly include “Facilitate the electrification of the building sector”.
 - Explicitly state that funds cannot be used for installation of new equipment that uses fossil fuels
 - Funds from alternative compliance payments should go to the Climate Catalytic fund to be spent on low-income whole-structure retrofits, including low-income multi-family buildings.
- On page 35, lines 2-3, strike “water and space heating” and substitute “on-site energy” and add on line 3, “except for kitchen appliances”.
- On page 35, following line 9, add energy efficiency provisions for buildings. Add:
D. For new covered buildings funded at least 25% by State funds

- A 40% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received between Jan 1 2023 and Dec 31 2025
 - A 60% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received between Jan 1 2025 and Dec 31 2027
- E. For all other new covered buildings
- A 40% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received between Jan 1 2025 and Dec 31 2027
 - A 60% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received F. MAJOR RENOVATIONS – Energy Conservation
- F. “Major Renovation” means a renovation project:
- For which the total projected cost exceeds 50% of the assessed value of the existing building; or
 - Involving a change of use, if the change involves the application of different requirements of the standards.
- G. Except as provided in subsection () of this section, if a covered building is undergoing a major renovation, the building shall be renovated to achieve:
- A 40% reduction in the building’s average annual energy use; or
 - A 20% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the current Energy Code.
- H. A local jurisdiction may waive the requirements under subsection () of this section if the building owner demonstrates that the cost of the improvements necessary to achieve the required energy reductions would exceed projected operational and energy savings from the improvements over a certain payback period:
- A 25–year period for all buildings funded at least 25% by the State.
 - A 15–year period for all other buildings.
- Provisions regarding “alternative compliance pathway” on page 47, lines 20 -23, and lines 27-29, should be sunsetted. We suggest a sunset of 12/1/2030
 - Pages 47, delete lines 18-19 (“PROVIDE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY TO THE OWNERS OF COVERED BUILDINGS TO COMPLY WITH BUILDING EMISSIONS STANDARDS”)
 - The Building Emission Performance Standards regulations directive under 2-1602 (C) should
 - require that the adopted regulations prioritize direct emission reductions from qualified buildings via electrification plans and pathways,
 - provide protection against financial cost pass-through and evictions for tenants in covered multi-family buildings, 3) require covered public buildings’ retrofits to be completed with a high-quality workforce (i.e. prevailing wage, insurance coverage, paid leave, etc.) (pg. 48)

Equity and Environmental Justice Provisions

- Strengthen the provisions on pages 9-12 by including language that requires 40% of investments go to overburdened communities and Rosenberg Justice 40 bill and/or the Boyce/Watson all agency climate, equity, and labor test language.
 - The language in the Boyce/Watson all agency climate, equity and labor test should be incorporated on page 22, lines 12-15 as well
 - The Interagency Commission on School Construction should be included as an agency required to consider climate in long-term planning

Net Zero Schools

- Explicitly state that the IAC state school construction funding process may cover planning, design, and engineering for net-zero schools.
- School buildings that are not net-zero should be net-zero ready Insert on Page 35, following line 6
(12-501(3)(I)(2)(A (under the provision requiring solar ready):
 - A. The Installation of Solar Energy Systems
 - To include a 40% roof set aside and necessary electrical panel and conduit requirements. if the building:
 - Will have 20,000 square feet or more of continuous roof space, excluding the parking area; and
 - Will be 20 stories or less in height, above grade plane.
 - B. Regulations adopted under this subsection may authorize a local jurisdiction to waive the solar-ready requirement for a building on a specific finding that:
 - incident solar radiation at the building site is less than 75% of incident solar radiation at an open site; or
 - shadow studies indicate that 25% of a building's roof area will be in shadow.
 - Clarify the definition of "Solar Ready" to include the 40% roof set aside and the necessary electrical panel and conduit requirements.
- Delete "subject to the availability of funding" on Page 8 Line 14 and replace that language with one of the options below -
- P. 8, line 9-13, (5-312(c)(2)(I), Delete para. "Except as Provided in . . .
Delete 5-312 (c) (2) (I) of the Education Article that was inserted: except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the net-zero energy requirements that apply for a building to meet the definition of a "high performance building" under § 3-602.1 12 of the state finance and procurement article

OR

- Amend to read: Except as provided in Subparagraph III of this Paragraph, Public Schools shall be required to achieve a 40% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code by 2023 and a 60% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code by 2025.
- Pg 40 line 15-17. Remove having the Council develop guidelines and instead require them to provide an annual report on the status of meeting the high performance building requirements.
- Pg 8, line 25 – pg 9, line 2. If a school qualifies for a waiver because the Interagency Commission determines that either (I) or (II) is true, the school must be net-zero READY.

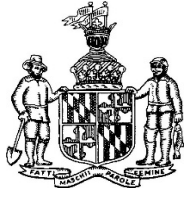
Buy Clean Maryland Act

- Consider adding To SB528 the **Buy Clean Maryland Act** provisions from HB806 - Del. Stein Public Buildings bill with one change related to the waiver provisions.
 - Section 4-904 (E) **Strike** - ~~(4) RESULT IN ONLY ONE SOURCE OR MANUFACTURER BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MATERIALS.~~
 - **Add** - (F) IF ONLY ONE SOURCE OR MANUFACTURER IS ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MATERIALS, A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT MAY BE ALLOWED, PROVIDED NONE OF THE OTHER WAIVER DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE.

Feinstein Letter of Support SB185.pdf

Uploaded by: Debbie Feinstein

Position: FAV



STATE'S ATTORNEY
JOHN J. MCCARTHY

State's Attorney for Montgomery County

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DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEYS
PETER A. FEENEY
RYAN S. WECHSLER

February 6, 2023

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairperson, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairperson Smith:

I write on behalf of the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland State's Attorney's Association in support of SB185, Maryland State Police Gun Center—Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders. I am the Chief of the Special Victims Division for the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office and the chair of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and the former chair of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. I am also a member of the Governor's Family Violence Council, and the co-chair the Special Victims Subcommittee for the Maryland State's Attorney's Association.

Currently, the Maryland State Police Gun Center maintains and tracks information on crimes committed with firearms, but does not track firearms surrendered under final protective orders. In 2020, 75% of all domestic violence deaths were caused by a firearm. An abuser's possession of a firearm is a predictor of future lethal behavior. Gathering data related to the surrender of firearms pursuant to a protective order is vital to understanding whether our current system of surrendering such firearms is effective. Moreover, requiring data collection will expose any gaps or substantial differences in the firearm surrender process in each jurisdiction.

Given the nexus to lethality, and the need to expose any gaps in the current surrender process, the Maryland State Police Gun Center should track firearms surrendered under final protective orders. I strongly urge the passage of SB185.

Sincerely,

Debbie Feinstein
Chief, Special Victims' Division
Senior Assistant State's Attorney

SB 185 FAV House of Ruth.pdf

Uploaded by: Dorothy Lennig

Position: FAV



Marjorie Cook Foundation

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

2201 Argonne Drive • Baltimore, Maryland 21218 • 410-554-8463 • dlennig@hruthmd.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 185

February 7, 2023

DOROTHY J. LENNIG, LEGAL CLINIC DIRECTOR

The House of Ruth Maryland is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George’s County, and Montgomery County. Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include collecting and tracking data on guns surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. **We strongly urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 185.**

Protective orders are one of the most important tools that victims of domestic violence use to enhance their safety. Every final protective order requires the respondent to surrender their firearms to law enforcement. Domestic violence advocates have long been concerned that respondents are not surrendering all of their firearms. There have been several high profile cases where respondents have either not surrendered their firearms or only surrendered some of their firearms and subsequently shot and killed their victims. The gun surrender process is handled at the local level and there are no uniform protocols across Maryland’s many law enforcement agencies for tracking the surrender of firearms.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861 which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center. The Center is “a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state.” This year, Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order.

SB 185 would not change anything about when and how firearms are surrendered pursuant to a protective order. Before a court can issue a final protective order against a respondent, law enforcement must personally serve the respondent with the protective order petition and the respondent must be afforded the opportunity to appear for a final protective order hearing where they can either consent to entry of the order or have a full trial in front of a judge. Once the court enters a final protective order, both state law require the respondent to surrender firearms. All of these procedures will remain in effect. Senate Bill 185 simply establishes a tracking mechanism to enable law enforcement to determine whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective. If enacted, this bill will give us data

about whether Maryland is effectively getting firearms out of the hands of respondents in final protective orders.

Effective firearms surrender is an important issue in many respects. As part of his platform, Governor Wes Moore expressed that he will work with law enforcement agencies to create a firearms database to track firearms used in crimes to better enable law enforcement to analyze and solve gun crimes. While protective orders are not criminal in nature, many of the acts which form the basis of issuing a protective order are crimes and the petitioner has to prove that an act of abuse occurred in order to be awarded a final protective order. Tracking firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order would be another tool for providing safety to survivors of domestic violence.

The House of Ruth strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 185.

TESTIMONY FOR SB0185.pdf

Uploaded by: Jared Schablein

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY FOR SB0185

Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

Bill Sponsor: Senator Beidle

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Lower Shore Progressive Caucus

Person Submitting: Jared Schablein, Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0185 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

The topic of how much oversight the State Government should have over firearms is hotly debated here on the Eastern Shore. However, what most Shore folks universally agree on is that firearms in the hands of people who are not stable is a very bad situation.

Our membership supports the requirement that individuals must surrender their firearms once they have been placed under a final protective order. We believe that is sound policy that will protect the public. The piece that is missing in this solution is monitoring. We don't really monitor that everyone who is under a protective order has surrendered their firearms; what happened to the firearms that were surrendered; and who is managing them. That is what this legislation will do. It will empower the Maryland State Police Gun Center to track, screen and vet the firearms that should have been surrendered and ensure that they have truly been surrendered and are being managed properly by the state.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Testimony SB 185 2023 Pauliukonis Hopkins.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenifer Pauliukonis

Position: FAV



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for
Gun Violence Solutions

Testimony of Jen Pauliukonis – Director of Policy and Programming

Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions

In Support – Senate Bill 185

February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the committee,

The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions conducts and translates rigorous research to inform effective policy solutions, and develops, advocates for, and defends equitable and innovative policies and programs. **We urge the committee to support Senate Bill 185: Maryland State Police Data Collection of Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders.**

Using public health to address violence and injury requires using evidence and data to understand risk factors, develop policies, and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of that policy. There is strong evidence that laws prohibiting purchase and possession of domestic abusers and requiring firearm removal during the issuance of final protective orders, are effective at reducing intimate partner homicide and community violence.ⁱ Nearly half of all women killed in the United States are killed by a current or former intimate partner, and more than half of those were killed with a gun.^{ii iii} Intimate partner homicide often results in multiple victims, including the deaths of coworkers, friends, family members, and police officers. In fact, new research revealed that two-thirds of all mass shootings are either domestic violence incidents or perpetrated by shooters with a history of domestic violence.^{iv}

Laws that prevent abusers from accessing guns, like Maryland's current law to require the removal of firearms with the issuance of a protective order, have been shown to reduce intimate partner homicide by as much as 25%.^v To fully analyze and understand if and how Maryland's law is working to reduce domestic violence and intimate partner violence, we need the foundation for public health research: data.

Senate Bill 185 requires local law enforcement to report when firearms are removed or surrendered by respondents after the issuance of a final protective order. It does not create new gun laws. It does not create more laws related to domestic violence. It merely requires the reporting of key information about the number and type of firearms removed from abusers to the Maryland State Police. This small step will help law enforcement, researchers, and policymakers understand how the law is being enforced and if it is having the desired impact to reduce intimate partner and family violence in our state.

Data is the foundation of public health. It enables experts to evaluate and improve policies over time through evidence and rigorous research. Senate Bill 185 supports this public health goal.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence urges all the members of the committee to support Senate Bill 185.

Thank you,

Jen Pauliukonis

Director of Policy and Programming

ⁱ Zeoli AM, & Webster DW. (2010). Effects of domestic violence policies, alcohol taxes and police staffing levels on intimate partner homicide in large US cities. *Injury Prevention, 16 (2) 90-05*.

ⁱⁱ Websdale N, Ferraro K, & Barger SD. (2019). The domestic violence fatality review clearinghouse: introduction to a new National Data System with a focus on firearms. *Injury Epidemiology, 6 (6)*.

ⁱⁱⁱZeoli AM. (2018). Multiple victim homicides, mass murders, and homicide suicides as domestic violence events. Battered Women's Justice Project.

^{iv} Geller, L.B., Booty, M. & Crifasi, C.K. (2021) The role of domestic violence in fatal mass shootings in the United States, 2014–2019. *Inj. Epidemiol. 8, 38*.

^v Zeoli AM, & Webster DW. (2010). Effects of domestic violence policies, alcohol taxes and police staffing levels on intimate partner homicide in large US cities. *Injury Prevention, 16 (2) 90-05*.

HPP SB 185 Testimony- FAV (FINAL).pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Emerson

Position: FAV

Testimony of the Human Trafficking Prevention Project

BILL NO: Senate Bill 185
TITLE: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: February 7, 2023
POSITION: FAVORABLE

Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to require every law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. The Human Trafficking Prevention Project at the University of Baltimore School of Law supports this bill because it would be the first step in analyzing whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective, which is a crucial step in ensuring the safety of survivors of interpersonal violence, many of whom are also survivors of human trafficking.

One of the most common safety tools victims of interpersonal violence (IPV) use is the protective order. Every final protective order requires the respondent to surrender their firearms to law enforcement. Advocates working with survivors of IPV have long been concerned that respondents are not surrendering any or all of their firearms as required by law, and there have been several high profile cases where respondents shot and killed their victims after failing to do so. Currently, different law enforcement agencies have different protocols for tracking the surrender of firearms. In a recent attempt to remedy this disconnect, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861, which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center. The Center is “a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state.” HB 3 would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. It would be the first step in analyzing whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective.

The lethality of the combination between IPV and firearms cannot be overstated: the presence of a firearm in an intimate partner violence situation increases the risk of homicide by at least 500%, while 44% of mass shootings between 2008 and 2013 involved intimate partners.¹ Women are especially vulnerable when it comes to the deadly intersection of domestic violence and gun violence, with approximately 1,000 women murdered annually by intimate partners, two-thirds of them killed with guns.² Even when not used in an episode of deadly gun violence, firearms are commonly used by abusers to control, terrorize and intimidate their victims. A survey by the National Domestic Violence Hotline found that for IPV survivors whose abusers had firearms, 10% said their abuser had fired a gun during an incident of interpersonal violence, 22% said their abuser had explicitly threatened to kill them, their children, families, pets, friends, and/or to commit suicide, and 67% said they believed their abusers were capable of killing them.³ Senate Bill 185 is a step towards lessening this deadly risk by providing us with data about whether Maryland is effectively getting firearms out of the hands of those who would do their victims harm in final protective order cases. For these reasons, the Human Trafficking Prevention Project supports Senate Bill 185, and respectfully urges a favorable report.

*For more information, please contact:
Jessica Emerson, LMSW, Esq.
Director, Human Trafficking Prevention Project
jemerson@ubalt.edu*

¹ National Center Against Domestic Violence, *Domestic Violence and Firearms* (2016), <https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/domestic-violence-and-firearms>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

MLAW Testimony - SB185 - Firearms Surrendered Unde

Uploaded by: Jessica Morgan

Position: FAV



Bill No: SB185
Title: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Hearing: February 7, 2023
Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **SB185 - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders** is a priority on the [2023 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

SB185 would expand the role of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order.

One of the most important safety tools victims of domestic violence use is the protective order. Every final protective order requires the respondent to surrender their firearms to law enforcement. Domestic violence advocates have long been concerned that respondents are not surrendering all of their firearms. There have been several high profile cases where respondents have either not surrendered their firearms or only surrendered some of their firearms and subsequently shot and killed their victims. Currently, different law enforcement agencies have different protocols for tracking the surrender of firearms. Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861 which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center. The Center is “a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state.” This bill would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. It would be the first step in analyzing whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of SB185.

MLAW 2023 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2023 Legislative Agenda*:

AAUW Anne Arundel County
AAUW Howard County
AAUW Maryland
Advocacy and Training Center
Allegany County Women's Action Coalition
Anne Arundel County NOW
Aspire Ascend
Baltimore County State Democratic Central Committee
Bound for Better
Business and Professional Women of Maryland
Charles County Commission for Women
Climate Xchange Maryland
Drake Institute of Women's Policy
Empowered Women in Business International
ERA Coalition
For All Seasons, Inc.
Kensington-Rockville AAUW
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)
Maryland Commission for Women
Maryland NOW
Maryland WISE Women
Miller Partnership Consultants LLC
MoCoWoMen
Montgomery County Business & Professional Women (MC BPW)
Montgomery County Chapter, National Organization for Women
Montgomery County Commission for Women
Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Prince George's County Chapter
National Women of Achievement, Inc.
Planned Parenthood of Maryland
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC
Reproductive Justice Inside
Southern Prince George's Business and Professional Women
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Prince George's County Chapter
University of Baltimore School of Law If/When/How Chapter
Women's Democratic League of Frederick County
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Zonta Club of Annapolis
Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland

**as of 2/3/2023*

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

**305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 201 - Towson, MD 21204 - 443-519-1005 phone/fax
mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com - www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org**

WDC 2023 Testimony SB0185_Final.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnne Koravos

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

**Senate Bill 185 - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
Judicial Proceedings Committee – February 7, 2023
SUPPORT**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2023 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic clubs in our county with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is joining with the House of Ruth, the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW), and Court Watch Montgomery to urge the passage of **SB0185** to require law enforcement agencies to provide information on firearms that are required to be surrendered under final protective orders to the Maryland Gun Center.

There is no question that domestic violence and gun violence are deeply interconnected. Everytown reports that nearly two-thirds of intimate partner homicides are committed with a gun.¹ Access to a gun by a violent intimate partner makes it five times more likely a woman will die at the hands of a domestic abuser.² Moreover, Black women are three times more likely than white women to be fatally shot by an intimate partner.³ The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) reported that guns were used in 100 percent of the abusive partner deaths in 2020 in Maryland.⁴

By enacting legislation that requires people subject to domestic violence protective orders to surrender their firearms, Maryland lawmakers appropriately recognized that restricting the access of abusers to firearms can save lives.⁵ However, a law is only as good as its implementation. In Maryland's case, victims of abuse cannot be confident that the granting of final protective orders will ensure that their abusers do not have guns.

¹ "Guns and Violence Against Women," Everytown analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), 2019. <https://everytownresearch.org/report/guns-and-violence-against-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-intimate-partner-violence-problem/>

² April M Zeoli, Alexander McCourt, Shani Buggs, Shannon Frattaroli, David Lilley, Daniel W Webster, Analysis of the Strength of Legal Firearms Restrictions for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Their Associations With Intimate Partner Homicide, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, Volume 187, Issue 11, November 2018, Pages 2365–2371, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwy174>

³ Everytown analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), 2019.

⁴ 2020 Homicide Prevention Report, MNADV, page 3, <https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2020-DV-Homicide-Prevention-Report.pdf>

⁵ Md. Code Fam. Law 4-506 (f)



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

Maryland courts approve thousands of final protective orders each year that are subject to gun surrender requirements.⁶ Nevertheless, Maryland has not yet put into place a standard procedure to ensure state-wide compliance with its surrender requirements. There appears to be variation in the protocols applied by both the courts and law enforcement agencies to achieve compliance.

How many abusers surrender their firearms each year as required by law? We don't know. In Maryland, law enforcement agencies are not required to collect or report data on the firearms that have been surrendered, making it close to impossible for state officials to diagnose issues with implementation and improve enforcement. The organization Prosecutors Against Gun Violence states that careful and timely evaluation of the effectiveness of the removal/retrieval process is essential and recommends that data be collected at each stage of the process.⁷

WDC supports the reporting requirements of SB0185 because the Gun Center is the ideal repository for comprehensive data on guns that have been surrendered--data that can be a powerful tool in evaluating the effectiveness of current practices and policies and taking actions to proactively ensure that firearms are kept out of the hands of abusers.

We ask for your support for SB0185 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report.

Diana E. Conway
WDC President

Carol Cichowski
WDC Advocacy Committee

⁶ According to the MNADV, Maryland courts granted over 10,000 final protective orders in Fiscal Year 2018. Maryland DV Statistics, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/guns-and-violence-against-women-americas-uniquely-lethal-intimate-partner-violence-problem/>

⁷ "Firearm Removal/Retrieval in Cases of Domestic Violence, Prosecutors Against Gun Violence and the Consortium for Risk-based Firearm Policy (February 2016), <http://efsgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Removal-Report-Updated-2-11-16.pdf>

SB185 - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearm

Uploaded by: Joyce Lombardi

Position: FAV



SB185 - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee – February 7, 2023
Testimony of Adam Rosenberg, Executive Director, LifeBridge Health Center for Hope
Position: **SUPPORT**

Center for Hope writes in support of SB185, which would require the Maryland State Police Gun Center to track, screen, and vet firearms surrendered under final protective orders (FTO) and require law enforcement agencies to report data on firearms surrendered under FTOs.

Since 2004, it has been a crime, triggering a mandatory arrest, for failure to surrender a firearm after an FTO has been issued (Md Code Fam. Law §4-509). Yet this law has not had centralized data collection for almost a decade and its implementation and enforcement varies widely by county.

Center for Hope, a subsidiary of LifeBridge Health, provides trauma-informed crisis intervention, nationally recognized child advocacy, forensic interviews, medical exams, mental health, wraparound case management, family advocacy, and workforce development to patients and community members who have experienced domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and community/gun violence. We help over 6,000 violence victims and their families in the Baltimore region each year. As part of a hospital system, we value the importance of data-gathering and evidence-based action. Center for Hope has recently expanded our own data team to make sure that we are adequately tracking and measuring our programs, services, and client outcomes.

The Center for Hope includes two domestic violence programs, one of which is Northwest Hospital's DOVE program serving Baltimore County. During the last two years of COVID pandemic, DOVE experienced a 475% increase in request for shelter care, 222% increase in community referrals, and 25% increase in high risk clients of being killed. These numbers continue to remain at record levels of 1,500 victims of domestic violence helped each year.

Meanwhile, guns are becoming even more prevalent since this summer, when the U.S. Supreme Court in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association (NYSRPA) v. Bruen* declared unconstitutional New York's "proper cause" requirement for issuance of a permit to carry a handgun. As the Maryland State Police reported in January, 2023 to this committee, since *Bruen*, state handgun "wear and carry" applications have exploded: from about 18,000 per year to about 18,000 per month.

More domestic violence and more guns spell danger, the very danger that our firearm surrender law means to prevent. We applaud Maryland's efforts to better understand how, if, and when its FTO firearm surrender law is being enforced.

We urge a favorable report on SB185.

Adam Rosenberg, Esq., Executive Director, Center for Hope
arosenberg@lifebridgehealth.org (410) 601-HOPE

Joyce Lombardi, Esq., Government Relations
Joyce@JRLaw.group (410) 429-7050

SB185 testimony (2023).pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Herren

Position: FAV



Testimony in Support of
Maryland State Police Gun Center -
Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
SB 185/HB 3
Executive Director Karen Herren
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence

February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and distinguished members of the committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence (MPGV) is a statewide, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland. We urge the committee for a **FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 185** to require firearms surrendered under final protective orders to be tracked, screened, and vetted by the Maryland State Police Gun Center for purposes of determining whether and under what conditions firearms are appropriately surrendered. Such data is critical in determining whether processes and planning currently in place is operating as intended and where improvements can be made.

Every year, more than 600 American women are shot to death by intimate partners. Firearms are used to commit more than half of all intimate partners homicides in the United States. This death toll frequently extends to mass shootings where in more than half of mass shootings, the shooter killed an intimate partner. Nearly one third of mass shooters had a history of domestic violence.

It is critically important that when tools like protective orders are utilized, that they are done so in such a way that they provide the highest level of benefit. While relinquishing firearms is a component of protective orders in Maryland, the burden of doing so is on the subject of the order. We need to better understand the efficacy of this approach. Requiring the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms subject to a final protective order to run through a centralized entity will be an invaluable tool.

MPGV urges the committee to vote **FAVORABLY on SB 185** to require reporting on firearms surrendered under final protective orders.

MSP Support Position Paper.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathy Anderson

Position: FAV



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: February 7, 2023

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 185 **Position: Support**

BILL TITLE: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrender Under Final Protective Orders

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to alter the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the state.

Under current law, respondents of a final protective order are required to surrender all firearms in their possession to a law enforcement agency or transfer them to a lawful recipient of their choice. All law enforcement agencies are required to report to the Maryland State Police Gun Center all firearms that use recovered in a crime.

This legislation will expand the Maryland State Police Gun Center's responsibilities to include receiving information from all law enforcement agencies regarding the surrendering of firearms by respondents of final protective orders. While respondents are currently required to surrender their firearms or transfer them to another person who is lawfully able to possess them, there is no central repository to track and ensure the transaction takes place. This legislation will create a repository and help ensure firearms are surrendered in accordance with the issuance of final protective orders.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 185 a favorable report.

VSAB Support SB185 Maryland Gun Center 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Will Smith
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support – SB185 – The Maryland State Police Gun Center Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

Dear Chairman Smith:

Senate Bill 185 alters the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State. It also requires each law enforcement agency to report to the Center the number and type of firearms surrendered, the jurisdictions where the firearms were surrendered, and certain information regarding the individual who surrendered each firearm under final protective orders.

The Montgomery County Victim Services Advisory Board (VSAB) advises the County Council and County Executive on assisting the needs of victims of a broad range of violent crimes, including rape, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The number and severity of sexual assault and domestic violence cases referred to the Montgomery County HHS Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program and the Abused Persons Program increased substantially in the last several years when comparing intake data.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861, which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center as a statewide enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state. The expansion of the role of this Center will further allow an added layer of knowledge and protection to victims with final protective orders. Each law enforcement agency would have to report information received about any and all firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order.

VSAB asks the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 185.

Sincerely,

Neda Bolourian
VSAB Co-chair

Department of Health and Human Services

SB 185_MNADV_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Melanie Shapiro

Position: FAV



BILL NO: Senate Bill 185
TITLE: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee
HEARING DATE: February 7, 2023
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 Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 185.**

The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.¹ The 2021 domestic violence homicide numbers were the highest they have been in over ten years.² There were 58 Marylanders that lost their lives as the result of domestic violence in 2021. At least 47 children were left behind as a result of these deaths. A firearm was used in 76% of the deaths.

Ensuring that the Respondent of a final protective order in fact surrenders their firearms is imperative to keeping domestic violence victims safe and alive. Protective orders are an invaluable resource for victims of domestic violence and offers many protections including the requirement that firearms must be surrendered. Yet, there is no current process in place to monitor that firearms are in fact turned in.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861 which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center. The Center is “a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state.” This year, Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 185.**

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

² https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-Memorial-Program-Trifold_Final-Version.pdf

SB 185 - WLCMD - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Siri

Position: FAV

BILL NO: Senate Bill 185
TITLE: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: February 7, 2023
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Senate Bill 185 is a data collection bill that seeks to gain information regarding the surrendering of firearms pursuant to a final protective orders. Under current Maryland and federal law, firearms already *must* be surrendered to law enforcement by a respondent upon the issuance of a final protective order. This legislation does not change or expand upon this requirement. Rather, it would require data be collected regarding the gun surrender process.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland (WLC) represents hundreds of victims of domestic violence every year in final protective order hearings. Protective orders are one of the most important tools that victims of domestic violence use to enhance their safety. As a condition of every final protective order, the respondent is required to surrender any and all firearms to law enforcement. Yet our experience has proven to us that this is not always the case. The gun surrender process is handled at the local level and there are no uniform protocols across Maryland's many law enforcement agencies for tracking the surrender of firearms. The WLC strongly supports this legislation as it will provide valuable information regarding the number of respondents actually surrendering firearms as ordered.

Following last year's creation of the Maryland State Police Gun Center, "a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state," Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. SB 185 would not change anything about when and how firearms are surrendered pursuant to a protective order. Before a court can issue a final protective order against a respondent, law enforcement must personally serve the respondent with the protective order petition and the respondent must be afforded the opportunity to appear for a final protective order hearing where they can either consent to entry of the order or have a full trial in front of a judge. Once the court enters a final protective order, both state and federal law require the respondent to surrender firearms. *All of these procedures will remain unchanged.* Senate Bill 185 simply establishes a tracking mechanism to enable law enforcement to determine whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective. If enacted, this bill will give us data about whether Maryland is effectively getting firearms out of the hands of respondents in final protective orders.

We cannot solve a problem when we cannot see it. This data is essential for providing a clear picture of how effective our current processes at keeping firearms out of the hands of respondents who should not have access to them. For all the foregoing reasons the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 185.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0185.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 07, 2023

SB 185

Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: Favorable

The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 185 expands the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State. The bill requires (1) the center to create and maintain a statewide database to track information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State and (2) each law enforcement agency to report to the center specified information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders issued in the authority of the law enforcement agency.

The Catholic Church has a strong interest in public safety and keeping communities safe. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in response to rising violence that “[w]e have an obligation to respond. Violence – in our homes, our schools and streets, our nation and world – is destroying the lives, dignity and hopes of millions of our sisters and brothers.” To that point, the Church supports legislation that controls and strengthens regulations on firearms, and other such legislation that makes our communities safer. When community members are not in fear of their lives, they can live up to their God-given potential and enrich the world around them. Every person has a right to life, and the Conference will continue to work to combat violence and promote a culture of peace.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a **favorable** report for Senate Bill 185.

SB185 MD Gun Ctr.pdf

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

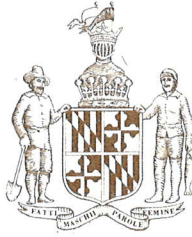
Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Vice Chair

Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 7, 2023

SB 185

MSP Gun Center – Firearms Surrender Under Final Protective Order

Good afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of Judicial Proceedings;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 185, Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders. Last year, MGA passed SB 861 which established within the MSP Gun Center a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state. This bill would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order.

SB 185 would not change anything about when and how firearms are surrendered pursuant to a protective order. SB 185 is simply data collection bill. It would be the first step in analyzing whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective.

Tracking firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order would be another tool for providing safety to survivors of domestic violence. I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 185.

SB185_FVC_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Allyn

Position: FAV



Governor's Family Violence Council

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Jeanne Yeager
Chair

Dorothy Lennig, Esq.
Vice-Chair

February 7, 2023

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr. and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
2 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SENATE BILL 185 – Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered
Under Final Protective Orders**
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

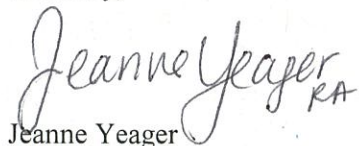
The Governor's Family Violence Council supports Senate Bill 185, a bill that alters the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State. Additionally, each law enforcement agency would be required to report to the Center the number and type of firearms surrendered, the jurisdictions where the firearms were surrendered, and certain information regarding the individual who surrendered each firearm under final protective orders.

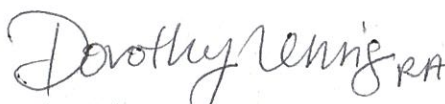
One of the most important safety tools victims of domestic violence use is the protective order. Every final protective order requires the respondent to surrender their firearms to law enforcement. Domestic violence advocates have long been concerned that respondents are not surrendering all of their firearms. There have been several high profile cases where respondents have either not surrendered their firearms or only surrendered some of their firearms and subsequently shot and killed their victims. Currently, different law enforcement agencies have different protocols for tracking the surrender of firearms. Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861 which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center. The Center is "a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state." Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order. It would be the first step in analyzing whether our current system of protective order gun surrendering is effective.

If enacted, this bill will give us data about whether Maryland is effectively getting firearms out of the hands of respondents in final protective orders. Senate Bill 185 aligns with the mission of the Governor's Family Violence Council which is to provide recommendations that will reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors.

For these reasons, the Governor's Family Violence Council urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 185.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Yeager
Chair


Dorothy Lennig, Esq.
Vice-Chair

SB185 BJC Fav Guns PO.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Miicke

Position: FAV

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 Amit Women
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 Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
 Baltimore Men's ORT
 Baltimore Zionist District
 Beth Am Congregation
 Beth El Congregation
 Beth Israel Congregation
 Beth Shalom Congregation of
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 Beth Tfiloh Congregation
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 B'nai Israel Congregation
 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
 Bolton Street Synagogue
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
 Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation
 Congregation Beit Tikvah
 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 Federation of Jewish Women's
 Organizations of Maryland
 Hadassah
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
 J Street
 Jewish Federation of Howard County
 Jewish Labor Committee
 Jewish War Veterans
 Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
 Jewish Women International
 Jews For Judaism
 Moses Montefiore Anshe Emanah
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 National Council of Jewish Women
 Ner Tamid Congregation
 Rabbinical Council of America
 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emanah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**Senate Bill 185 - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms
 Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders**

Judicial Proceeding Committee

February 7, 2023

SUPPORT

Background: Senate Bill 185, (SB185), would expand the purpose of the Maryland State Police Gun Center to include the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State. The bill requires (1) the center to create and maintain a statewide database to track information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders in the State and (2) each law enforcement agency to report to the center specified information on firearms surrendered under final protective orders issued in the jurisdiction of the law enforcement agency.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and its agencies. One of these agencies is CHANA, a non-profit organization that provides crisis intervention, legal services, and counseling to community members of all ages facing domestic, sexual, or financial abuse, women The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.¹ Ensuring that someone who has received a final protective order surrenders their guns will help keep domestic violence victims safer. While protective orders may require guns to be surrendered our state does not have a process to monitor that the guns are turned in and therefore kept away from domestic violence victims. SB185 would create an appropriate tracking process so less domestic violence victims lose their lives to gun violence.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on SB185.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

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

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Past President

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Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
Shomrei Emenah Congregation
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

HB0003-POGunRestrictionUNFAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Nelda Fink

Position: UNF

UNFAVORABLE - HB0003/SB0185
Nelda Fink
MD District 32

HB0003/SB0185 Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms
Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders

This bill directly and blatantly violates our 2nd amendment rights and attempts to do so under the arbitrary and capricious guise of public safety.

Public safety is not a God given right. A government can never provide full nor achieve public safety because a person's safety is not provided to the individual but is provided BY the individual. The individual creates it him or her self. I don't have a problem walking down the streets of Baltimore because I have created in my mind a mindset of safety and protection by God.

A government cannot provide that. Only the individual can provide that.

In fact if a government attempts to create public safety it is only an illusion. No matter how much the government restricts the people, someone will always feel insecure and unsafe.

Public safety is not to be exchanged for our Constitutional God given rights.

OPPOSE This Bill.

Nelda Fink

Senate Hearing.pdf

Uploaded by: Randall Morris

Position: UNF

SB1 Restricting Wear and Carry

I am not in favor of this bill as it is unconstitutional to its core and goes against everything that came out of the Bruen Case heard before the Supreme Court.

SB86 Restricting Adults from 18 to under 20

I am not in favor of this bill, this bill is so clearly unconstitutional and an intentional violation of the rights of adults 18 to 20 years ago in that it totally denies them the right to buy any firearm to protect themselves, their families and ability to obtain food through lawful hunting. This bill would not even be before this committee if it took away their right to vote and I want this committee to think about this bill if it were, because it is taking away a Constitutional Right

SB113

I am not in favor of this bill, this bill is absurd and would force FFL dealers to shutdown or have to pay ridiculous insurance that would be passed onto lawful customers. It would seem that the intent of this bill is only to such that.

Would this committee even consider this bill if it was holding car companies, car dealerships and car salesman accountable if a buyer got into an accident intentionally or not.

SB118

I am not in favor of this bill, those that carry legally should not be restricted to what places of business or homes that don't like firearms, the permit holder should be under no obligation to inform anyone of the general public of whether or not they are carrying, nor should any anti-2nd Amendment Policy be enforced by State Law that would clearly be unconstitutional as per the Bruen case heard before the Supreme Court.

SB 185

Unfavourable as it was just found to be unconstitutional