



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.