

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.