



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,  
*Christy Jengler*  
Chairperson

Frederick County DVCC