



BILL NO: House Bill 1030
TITLE: Task Force to Study Murder Prevention and Reduction in Maryland
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: March 7, 2023
POSITION: **Favorable with Amendments**

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 House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report with amendments on HB 1030.**

MNADV would request that the bill be amended to include:

“The Executive Director of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, or their designee; and One chair of a Local Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team pursuant to §4-703 of the Family Law Article.”

House Bill 1030 would establish the Task Force to Study Murder Prevention and Reduction in Maryland. The Task Force would examine factors contributing to homicides including domestic violence and intimate partner violence. In addition, the Task Force would examine the effectiveness of current laws relating to firearms, background checks, and domestic violence.

The MNADV provides technical assistance to the Local Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams, created and facilitates the Domestic Violence Fatality Review State Implementation Team, tracks domestic violence homicides in Maryland and analyzes trends and develops policies in the hopes of preventing future deaths. The 2021 domestic violence homicide numbers were the highest they have been in over ten years.¹ 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. In 2022 there were 56 Marylanders that lost their lives as the result of domestic violence including 5 children.²

The Task Force that HB 1030 creates would take a comprehensive look at homicides in Maryland, services available, and make recommendations to address the root causes of violence and prevent future homicides. The Task Force would also examine Maryland’s firearms laws. Firearms were used in 76% of

¹ https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-Memorial-Program-Trifold_Final-Version.pdf

² <https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2022-Memorial-Trifold-Brochure-2023-1-1.pdf>



the domestic homicide deaths in Maryland in 2021 and 75% of the 2022 deaths. A comprehensive analysis that this Task Force would undertake with the goal of murder prevention and reduction in Maryland is imperative.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report with amendments on HB 1030.**