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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

Judiciary Committee

March 23, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.*

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

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