



BILL NO: Senate Bill 185
TITLE: Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: March 23, 2023
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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 on SB 185.**

The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.¹ The 2021 domestic violence homicide numbers were the highest they have been in over ten years.² 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. A firearm was used in 76% of the deaths.

Ensuring that the Respondent of a final protective order in fact surrenders their firearms is imperative to keeping domestic violence victims safe and alive. Protective orders are an invaluable resource for victims of domestic violence and offers many protections including the requirement that firearms must be surrendered. Yet, there is no current process in place to monitor that firearms are in fact turned in.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 861 which created the Maryland State Police Gun Center. The Center is “a statewide firearms enforcement center for the tracking, screening, and vetting of all firearm crimes committed in the state.” This year, Senate Bill 185 would expand the role of the Center to require each law enforcement agency to report to the Center information about firearms surrendered pursuant to a final protective order.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 185.**

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

² https://www.mnadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-Memorial-Program-Trifold_Final-Version.pdf