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 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**Senate Bill 753 – Public Safety - Firearm Background Checks,
 Victim Notification, and the Maryland State Police Gun Center**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 27, 2024

Support

Background: SB 753 would require anyone in Maryland (likely State Police and/or regulated firearm dealers who conduct background checks) to notify the State Police Gun Center of a background check denial of a prohibited person. The State Police Gun Center would then notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours, and that agency would then be responsible for notifying any victim of a final protective order of the background check denial. In this way, victims can be informed of their abuser's potential intentions and take necessary precautions.

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. People come to CHANA in situations of abuse because they want to know their options and rights. What underlies all domestic violence/abuse is power and control. Our agencies' clients experience physical, sexual, psychological, financial, technological, and spiritual abuse. By allowing them the ability to take back some control, we are empowering these victims. Ensuring that someone who has received a final protective order is notified that their abuser tried to purchase a gun may save their life.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on SB753.

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.

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