



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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DATE: **February 29, 2024**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 475**

POSITION: **Support**

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports Senate Bill 475.

Gun violence has reached epidemic proportions in our state, and is now the leading cause of death among children and teens in Maryland. MSAA sees the human cost of this violence every day as it seeks justice for victims and their families in our criminal legal system. The interests served by prosecution of firearms offenders, though – interests like accountability, rehabilitation, and deterrence – are just one piece of this puzzle. SB 475 prioritizes another piece, one that must be at the forefront of our efforts: prevention.

SB 475 creates the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention, and ensures a holistic, public health approach to violence prevention and intervention. MSAA applauds Governor Moore and the sponsors of this important piece of legislation for providing for an evidence-based, “whole-of-government” approach to such an urgent challenge, and looks forward to collaborating with stakeholders and community leaders at all levels across the state to make our communities safer.