



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 475 – Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment

DATE: February 29, 2024
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

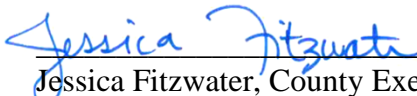
As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 475 – Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment a favorable report.

This bill will establish the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State.

The creation of a statewide Center for Firearm Violence Prevention is the first step in implementing a whole-of-government approach to reducing gun violence in Maryland. The Center, housed in the Department of Health, will work with Federal, State, and local agencies to promote the development of evidence-based firearm violence prevention initiatives in affected communities. By working with these agencies, the Center will have the ability to ensure no community is left behind and efforts are focused in areas that have been disproportionately impacted by the firearm violence crisis.

SB 475 is vital to ensuring the reduction in firearm violence and harm to Maryland's children. The established Center will be charged with working with government and non-government stakeholders in communities to create a plan to reduce firearm violence through data collection, information sharing, and research. This is essential in ensuring that all aspects of this crisis are evaluated, and a meaningful plan may be crafted by the Center. This bill, and the work conducted by the Center, carry the potential to make Maryland a leader in firearm violence prevention.

As a mother of two, a 17-year educator, and now the County Executive of the fastest growing school district in Maryland, making our community safer from gun violence is a top priority for me. Thank you for your consideration of SB 475. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD