



## Maryland Community Health System

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Senate Finance Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>SB 475</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>February 29, 2024</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

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The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 475 - Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment*. The bill establishes the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention in the Maryland Department of Health to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State by partnering with federal, State, and local agencies, and affected communities to implement a public health approach to firearm violence reduction.

MCHS is a network of seven federally qualified health centers with 55 care delivery sites across the state of Maryland. Our mission is to ensure underserved communities have access to somatic, behavioral, and oral health care. Social determinants of health and the cycle of gun violence are inextricably linked, with many of the communities we serve experiencing high rates of firearm-related injury and death and also being disproportionately impacted by other health issues. MCHS strongly supports working specifically with affected communities because, as with so many areas of public health, community input should inform the efforts and initiatives developed around gun violence prevention.

MCHS requests a favorable report on this bill. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).