

**Senate Finance Committee
February 29, 2024**

Senate Bill 475: Center for Firearm Violence Prevention – Establishment

*****SUPPORT*****

The National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter, an organization representing social workers statewide, is asking for your support for Senate Bill 475 - Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment.

NASW Maryland supports the creation of the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention to better enable Maryland to address firearm violence through data collection and the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based strategies to identify the root causes of firearm suicides, homicides, and injuries. Among the things that will help this effort is the use of data to identify both risk and protective factors. This use of predictive analytics can help lead the State to more effective policies that will reduce the incidents of death and injury.

Upstream prevention is worth a great deal of investment. We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 475.

Respectfully,

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