



POSITION STATEMENT

Testimony to the Finance Committee

Senate Bill 0475/HB 0583 – Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment

Sponsors: Senate President Bill Ferguson and Speaker Adrienne Jones

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GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill SB0475/HB 0583, which establishes the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention in the Maryland Department of Health and will partner with various federal, state, and local agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to reducing gun violence in the State of Maryland.

The State of Maryland has routinely ranked in the top 10 in highest gun homicide rates in the country. Despite a historic reduction in gun violence in 2023, Baltimore City's 2023 murder rate (47.2 per 100,000) ranks 2nd highest among U.S. cities with a population of 500,000 or more. Reducing gun violence is a complex issue and utilizing a public health approach will identify the root causes of gun violence so that appropriate and effective strategies can be implemented. Furthermore, the data sharing component of this bill is crucial to understanding what is driving gun violence in the state.

As part of its multi-year agenda, the GBC is leveraging the resources of the business community to support an all-hands on deck approach to addressing gun violence, including partnering with the many local, state, and federal agencies that would also be working in conjunction with the Center. For these reasons, the GBC supports not just the passing of the bill but will also be an active partner in supporting the work of the Center. Thank you.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is the leading voice for the private sector in the Baltimore region, providing insightful economic and civic leadership to drive collective impact. Composed of more than 400 organizations, including large, mid-size, and small companies, nonprofits, foundations, and educational and healthcare institutions, the GBC is dedicated to fostering the prosperity of the Greater Baltimore region.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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