

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 475

February 14, 2024

Bethany Young, Director of Policy and Legislation

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's (GOCPP) role is to advise the Governor on criminal justice strategies, coordinate across public safety agencies, and allocate resources Statewide to support public safety.

Senate Bill 475 establishes a Center for Firearm Violence Prevention charged with coordinating a Statewide public health approach to reducing firearm violence and the harm it causes. It is unconscionable that firearm injuries are the leading cause of death for children in our nation. Gun violence is an epidemic warranting all of the resources we have at our disposal. Creating the Center is a critical step towards making Maryland safer.

GOCPP looks forward to collaborating with the Center and other State, local, and federal partners on a whole-of-government approach to reducing gun violence.

GOCPP urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 475.