



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: SB 475

Title: Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment

Hearing Date: February 29, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers (MASBHC) strongly supports *Senate Bill 475 - Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment*. The bill would establish the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention under the Department of Health.

MASBHC is alarmed by the growing incidents of gun violence in our schools. Between 2018 and 2023, there were 44 people wounded or killed in 45 school shootings in Maryland.ⁱ Our organization represents the 90 school-based health centers across Maryland. Our members regularly express concern about the profound impact of the threat of gun violence on students.

This bill recognizes that firearm violence is a public health issue. The Maryland Department of Health will work with families, communities, schools, and local officials to design and implement evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

ⁱ <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/states-with-the-most-school-shootings>