

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** SB 475

**Title:** Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment

**Hearing Date:** February 29, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Women's Law Center of Maryland (WLC) 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. The WLC supports Governor Moore's public health approach for addressing the issue of gun violence in our communities.

As part of our mission, WLC provides legal services to survivors of intimate partner violence. Victims and survivors of intimate partner violence are at a heightened risk for death or injury due to gun violence. Firearms are involved in more than half of intimate partner homicides, and individuals facing intimate partner violence are five times more likely to be killed when their partner has access to a gun.<sup>i</sup> We support the integrated approach in SB 475 of working with families, communities, and local officials in designing prevention and intervention strategies that are evidence-based.

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

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<sup>i</sup> Tobin-Tyler E. Intimate Partner Violence, Firearm Injuries and Homicides: A Health Justice Approach to Two Intersecting Public Health Crises. *J Law Med Ethics*. 2023;51(1):64-76. doi: 10.1017/jme.2023.41. Epub 2023 May 25. PMID: 37226755; PMCID: PMC10209983.