



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 475

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

**Hearing Date:** February 29, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *Senate Bill 475 - Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment*. The bill will establish the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention in the Maryland Department of Health.

Certified nurse-midwives provide care for women who may be exposed to gun violence that puts them at risk for personal harm, destruction of the family structure, and loss of financial stability. Women in the U.S. who are pregnant or who have recently given birth are more likely to be murdered than to die from obstetric causes—and these homicides are linked to a deadly mix of intimate partner violence and firearms.<sup>i</sup> In recognition that firearm-related violence is a complex, multifaceted issue that significantly affects women’s health, ACNM supports efforts to continue research, promote policy change, and develop effective prevention strategies at individual, community, and national levels.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. 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> Homicide leading cause of death for pregnant women in U.S., October 21, 2022, <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/homicide-leading-cause-of-death-for-pregnant-women-in-u-s/>. Accessed February 10, 2024.