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Testimony on Senate Bill 475
Center for Firearm Violence Prevention - Establishment
Senate Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of almost 2000 nonprofit organizations and institutions, with members in every county in the state. We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 475, creating the Center for Firearm Prevention and Intervention within the Maryland Department of Health.

Gun violence is creating a public health crisis, as well as ravaging the safety and diminishing the quality of life in Maryland, particularly in communities of color. The proposed Center will be positioned to foster engagement with a diverse array of stakeholders. This includes active partnerships with the public health community, law enforcement agencies, community-based groups, county, and local agencies, as well as non-governmental gun violence prevention organizations. By unifying these efforts, the Center aims to comprehensively address gun violence in its various forms across the state, and it marks a pivotal shift towards a comprehensive, public health-centered strategy to tackle this crisis throughout the state.

Creation of a state-level office is a proactive step that will enable more rapid and effective coordination of resources. It will also play a crucial role in identifying communities that require focused, strategic services to prevent, rather than merely address, gun violence.

We strongly urge you to give Senate Bill 475 a favorable report.



30 YEARS STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONS FOR GREATER QUALITY OF LIFE AND EQUITY

