



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *Senate Bill 753 –
Public Safety – Firearm Background Checks, Victim Notification, and the
Maryland State Police Gun Center*
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 27, 2024**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly to advocate for our social service agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish and broader community.

Senate Bill 753 bill would require Maryland State Police and/or regulated firearm dealers to notify the State Police Gun Center of a background check denial. The State Police Gun Center will then notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours, and that agency would then be responsible for notifying any victim of domestic violence of the background check denial if it is based on a prohibited person pursuant to an order of protection or violation of a protective order. In this way, victims can be informed of their abuser’s potential intentions and take necessary precautions.

In 2022, a requirement was placed on the FBI to notify local law enforcement when a prohibited person attempts to legally purchase a firearm and fails the background check. Maryland conducts some of its own background checks, and the federal requirement does not apply to Maryland State Police. Though this system of notification is helpful for law enforcement to be “in the loop,” it does nothing to help victims of domestic abuse to be aware of the potential intentions of their abuser.

The JCRC has a long tradition of supporting victims of domestic violence. We advocate on behalf of JCADA which empowers the people they serve by providing information regarding their options and rights. This Bill would serve as a mechanism to help them regain their sense of power and control after physical, sexual, psychological, or financial abuse. By providing survivors with the ability to take back some control, we are empowering them. For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 753.