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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 794**

**TITLE:**               Regulated Firearms – Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Process

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Moon

**COMMITTEE:**      Judiciary

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             February 21, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 794 – Regulated Firearms – Maryland Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearm Process. This legislation would allow an individual to voluntarily submit to a registry that states that the individual is not eligible to possess a firearm in Maryland.

HB 794 address a significant problem that we face in Maryland- the issue of those experiencing mental health crisis having access to firearms. Many police use of force instances have involved those who are experiencing a mental health crisis. When a firearm is involved, most of these cases end with a death. This legislation will allow someone to voluntarily give up their right to possess a firearm in Maryland. This change, in tandem with other reforms taking guns off our streets and our neighborhoods, will provide another avenue to addressing all too frequent gun violence. The ongoing gun violence epidemic demands any and every mitigation effort, and this volunteer registry has the potential to save lives across Maryland. Although the proposed registry would be maintained by the Maryland Department of Health, it is clear in the legislation that law enforcement entities such as the Baltimore County Police Department would have access to the registry, which is crucial. Baltimore County appreciates the continued cooperation between the State and Local governments to prevent gun violence and looks forward to expanding that partnership.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 794 from the House Judiciary Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).