



BILL NO: House Bill 935
TITLE: Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
HEARING DATE: February 22, 2024
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 935.**

Of the 37 domestic violence related deaths in Maryland in 2023, 73% were caused by guns. Higher rates of firearm ownership correlate to a higher rate of domestic violence homicide according to a 2019 study.¹ There is a 65% higher incidence rate of domestic firearm homicide in the states with the highest firearm ownership compared to states with lower ownership rates.² Since women are the most common victims of domestic violence homicide, they are most at risk with increased gun ownership.³ The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.⁴

House Bill 935 would impose an excise tax on certain gross receipts of certain firearms dealers derived from the sales of firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition in the State. Revenue generated from the excise tax would be distributed to specific hospital and physician funds as well as the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund, Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant Program, and the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention. Due to the high lethality risk for victims of domestic violence with the presence of a firearm, MNADV supports HB 935 which would generate revenue to support those seeking to assist victims and loved ones of victims of gun violence and efforts to prevent future gun violence.

¹ Kivisto, A.J., Magee, L.A., Phalen, P.L., Ray, B.R. (2019). Firearm ownership and domestic versus nondomestic homicide in the U.S. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Abstract: [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(19\)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(19)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation)

² Merovsh, Sarah. "Gun Ownership Rates Tied to Domestic Homicides, but Not Other Killings, Study Finds," NY Times, (July 22, 2019) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/us/gun-ownership-violence-statistics.html>

³ *Id.*

⁴ The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

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For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence** urges a **favorable report on HB 935**.

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