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TESTIMONY ON SB#0943 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0943, Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

This bill acknowledges a problem in our society and suggests ways to deal with that problem. The problem is the use of a firearm in domestic violence situations.

[In June, 2024], The U.S. Supreme Court Friday upheld a federal law that bars people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from owning a firearm. ¹

In an 8-1 decision in United States v. Rahimi, Chief Justice John Roberts [wrote in the opinion](#) that “our Nation’s firearm laws have included provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms.”

“When an individual has been found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another, that individual may be temporarily disarmed consistent with the Second Amendment,” Roberts wrote.

This problem exists on a national scale:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), one in three women has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime, with women of color experiencing violence at disproportionately high rates. On average, 57 women in the United States are shot and killed by an intimate partner every month. The presence of a gun during a domestic dispute makes it five times more likely that the woman will be killed. Around 4.5 million women report having been threatened with gun violence by an intimate partner, and nearly one million have been shot by an abusive intimate partner. The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Supplementary Homicide Reports found that more than 600 women are shot annually¹—one every 14 hours. ²

¹ <https://marylandmatters.org/2024/06/21/u-s-supreme-court-upholds-law-that-prevents-domestic-abusers-from-owning-guns/>

² https://mdpgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/A-Safe-Haven_Policy-Paper-November-2024-.pdf

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The purpose of this bill is altering and establishing provisions relating to the surrender of firearms by a respondent under the domestic violence statutes. It mandates the collection of data in Maryland to document what is happening in this area in Maryland. That mandate is accomplished by creating the Task Force to Study the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence Situations and requiring the Task Force to submit a report on its recommendations on or before November 15, 2025.

This bill can save the lives of victims of domestic violence by providing a road map for dealing with the issue in the most effective manner.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0943.