

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 943, the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. I am a resident of District 8 and a volunteer with Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence.

As you will hear in other testimony, an average of 47 Marylanders are killed each year due to domestic violence. However, this number does not include the family members, friends, and community members touched by each death. Several years ago, I briefly worked with a man who murdered his wife and daughter. Even though we were brief acquaintances, this horrible act shocked me and continues to haunt me. We must do more to end domestic violence.

The Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act is common-sense legislation that will strengthen domestic violence laws. As a legislature, you have already passed laws requiring firearm relinquishment for people subject to Domestic Violence Protective Orders. This legislation provides clear and specific instructions for firearm relinquishment and explores developing a compliance tracking system.

Without these components in place, our current laws will not be as effective. Less effective laws translate, tragically, to more people killed in Maryland as a result of domestic violence.

I urge a favorable report on SB 943. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

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