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February 19, 2025

TO: The Honorable Will Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Adam Spangler  
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: Senate Bill 943 - Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act – **Support**

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) requests a favorable report on **Senate Bill 943**, the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. This bill represents a crucial step forward in ensuring the safety of individuals living in situations of domestic violence, an issue that affects countless families across Maryland.

The provisions outlined in this legislation—particularly those addressing the surrender of firearms by respondents—are vital for protecting vulnerable individuals and children from potential harm. Additionally, by implementing a task force to study the use of firearms in domestic violence situations, Maryland can take a proactive approach to understanding and mitigating the risks associated with gun possession in these contexts.

Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that too often leads to tragic outcomes. The inclusion of comprehensive measures requiring petitioners to provide necessary information on firearms adds a layer of security for those seeking protection. Knowing whether the abuser possesses firearms or a valid handgun qualification license can make a significant difference in the safety of victims. This bill not only empowers victims by ensuring their concerns are taken seriously but also equips law enforcement with the necessary tools to respond effectively.

The passage of this bill will help ensure that survivors of domestic violence can seek relief and protection with the knowledge that their safety is prioritized. For the above reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on **Senate Bill 943**.

cc: The Honorable Senator Shelly Hettleman  
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation.

For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or [sbrantley@oag.state.md.us](mailto:sbrantley@oag.state.md.us).