



Young Democrats of Maryland

HB1050 - Family Law - Protective Orders - Surrender of Firearms Judiciary Committee - 2/20 SUPPORT

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this priority bill for the Young Democrats of Maryland. YDM represents the next generation of Marylanders and seeks to advance policies that will allow Maryland youth to thrive.

HB1050 will alter and establish provisions relating to the surrender of firearms by a respondent under the domestic violence statute and create a task force to study the use of firearms in domestic violence situations. Both gun violence and domestic violence are particularly salient issues for Maryland youth. Non-fatal shooting victimization of young people quadrupled in 2023,¹ and almost 40% of American children were direct victims of 2+ domestic violence incidents, making them more likely to be exposed to violence and crime than adults.²

This bill has the power to help decrease violence against women. Nearly half of all women murdered in the United States are killed by a current or former intimate partner, and more than half of these intimate partner homicides are by firearm. Perpetrators of domestic violence don't just use firearms within the home; often, they become mass shooters. In 68.2% of mass shootings from 2014-2019, the perpetrator had killed family, intimate partners, or had a history of domestic violence.

Firearm removal policies have the power to change this. Research shows that there is a 23% reduction in rates of intimate partner homicide when individuals convicted of nonspecific violent misdemeanors are prohibited from accessing firearms.³

HB1050 will give us the opportunity to further understand and take preemptive action against perpetrators of domestic violence and possible future perpetrators of mass shootings.

¹ https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/MD-DJS-Juvenile-Crime-Data-Brief_20230912.pdf

² <https://www.ojp.gov/program/programs/cev>

³ <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/domestic-violence-and-firearms>

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support for HB1050 and strongly urge a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

Mark Brewster II
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Chair, YDM Legislative and Policy Committee

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