



Testimony of Kelly Sampson, Senior Policy Counsel, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun  
Violence

Support for HB 1050 Before the House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett and Distinguished Members of the House Judiciary  
Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works to change the law, change the industry, and change culture to free America from gun violence. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans across the country in the fight to prevent gun violence.

In that legacy, today we stand in support of HB 1050, which would reduce the scourge of domestic violence in Maryland.

In [2022, domestic violence killed 56 Marylanders](#) and 75% of those deaths were from a firearm. This bill, the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act, accomplishes two main, life-saving objectives. First, HB 1050 would require subjects of a protective order to relinquish their firearms early in the protective order process. Second, this bill would create a task force to Study the Use of Firearms in Domestic Violence Situations; and require the Task Force to submit a report on its recommendations on or before November 15, 2025.

Given the proven nexus between domestic violence and firearms, the provision requiring a respondent to surrender firearms early in the process is incredibly important. [Every 12 hours](#), someone is shot and killed by a current or former intimate partner. The presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the [risk of homicide by 500%](#). The use of guns in domestic violence homicides [increases the risk of multiple victims by 70.9%](#). In non-domestic violence homicides, this likelihood is increased by only 38.7%. Children are three times more likely to be shot at home from domestic violence incidents than at a school. As such, this measure would save not only direct victims and their families but also the greater public. In America, [60% of mass](#)

[shooting events](#) between 2014 and 2019 were either domestic violence attacks or perpetrated by those with a history of domestic violence.

Brady is proud to support HB 1050 because it will protect Marylanders from violence. For the reasons described above, Brady urges the House Judiciary Committee to support the passage of this lifesaving bill.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sampson  
Senior Policy Counsel  
The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence