



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 934: Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Resources, Tools, and Educational Materials

Summary: HB 934 increases the authority for the Center for Firearms Violence Prevention and Intervention (“the Center”) to create resources, tools and educational materials. In addition, this bill empowers the Center to coordinate with state and local agencies as well as third-party organizations in the creation and dissemination of these materials.

Overview: Last session, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 475/HB 583 presented by the Administration which created the Center for Firearms Violence Prevention and Intervention with the Maryland Department of Health. The mission of this office is to view gun violence from a public health lens and to implement programs to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State.

We know that gun violence prevention requires a whole of government approach and this center brokers collaboration between the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, The Maryland State Police, and other Maryland stakeholders, including community partners.

In an average year, [796 people die by guns in Maryland](#) and another 1,363 are wounded. Gun violence costs Maryland \$10.5 billion each year, of which \$383.9 million is paid by taxpayers.

Other organizations in Maryland have moved to this view of firearm violence as shown in the establishment of the [Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#) housed in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Other national organizations, such as the [American Nurses Association](#), [The National Institute of Health](#), and the [American Public Health Association](#) have published many peer reviewed articles, position papers, and other educational materials outlining the comprehensive public health approach necessary to addressing the leading cause of premature deaths in the U.S. per the [Center for Disease Control](#).

HB 934 increases the authority of the Center by outlining and expanding previous language

regarding their mandate to “conduct public awareness campaigns,” as well as including the authority to work with partners specifically on these programs. The addition includes specific campaign topics as well as “any other topics the Center determines appropriate and necessary to promote firearm safety in the state.” The specific topics are:

- The secure storage of firearms;
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO); and
- Suicide prevention, including the 9-8–8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

This legislation does not mandate any timelines or additional requirements and simply authorizes the Center to expand its reach within communities and across the state.

Conclusion: HB 934 reinforces the benefit of the Center for Firearms Violence Prevention and Intervention by expanding its authority to produce educational resources on vital topics. The inclusion of state and government partners, as well as non-governmental community partners, will ensure the efficacy of these campaigns both in creation and dissemination.

Thank you and I ask for a favorable report on HB 934.