



To: Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee

From: Madelyn Cobb, State Policy Manager at March for Our Lives

Date: February 21, 2025

RE: H.B. 1050 – Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

Dear Chairman Clippenger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Madelyn Cobb. I am the Policy Manager at March For Our Lives, a national organization committed to addressing the devastating impact of gun violence on young people across the country. On behalf of March For Our Lives, I strongly support House Bill 1050, the *Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act*.

This critical legislation strengthens protections for survivors of domestic violence by ensuring the prompt surrender of firearms following the issuance of protective orders. Additionally, it establishes a Task Force to examine best practices for firearm surrender accountability and to pilot programs that implement these recommendations.

Too often, young people are overlooked in discussions about domestic violence, despite the significant risks they face. [According to the U.S. Department of Justice, women aged 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of domestic violence among all surveyed groups.](#) Among victims aged 18 to 24, nearly 30% of female homicide victims were killed by intimate partners. [The presence of a firearm in these situations escalates the danger—access to a gun makes it five times more likely that an abusive partner will kill their female victim.](#)

Children are also profoundly impacted by domestic violence. Each year, [an estimated 6.6 million children in the United States are exposed to domestic violence in their homes](#). Studies show that children who witness domestic violence are at increased risk of suffering from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, and they are also more likely to experience or perpetrate violence later in life. Moreover, the presence of a firearm in the home significantly increases the risk of a domestic violence incident turning fatal—not just for intimate partners, but for children as well.



As a Black woman, I am acutely aware of the heightened risks faced by women in my community. Young Black women, particularly those aged 18 to 34, are **seven times more likely** to be shot and killed by an intimate partner than their white counterparts. This is not just a statistic—it is a stark reality that demands urgent action. Our communities cannot afford inaction when lives are at stake.

House Bill 1050 directly addresses these alarming realities by ensuring that firearms are removed from dangerous situations before they escalate into tragedies. By mandating the swift surrender of firearms after a protective order is issued and creating a Task Force to improve enforcement, this bill will save lives. It will provide essential safeguards for survivors, prevent children from growing up in violent households with access to deadly weapons, and help break the cycle of domestic violence.

As you consider House Bill 1050, I urge you to think about the women and children in your districts—the constituents you have sworn to protect. Their safety, their ability to leave an abusive household, and their right to live free from violence depend on the policies you enact. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring their protection and holding abusers accountable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Madelyn Cobb".

Madelyn Cobb

Policy Manager, March For Our Lives