



BILL NO: House Bill 387
TITLE: Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
HEARING DATE: February 13, 2025
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the COMMITTEE to favorably Report on HB 387.**

House Bill 387, known as the "Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act," proposes an excise tax on the gross receipts of firearms dealers from sales within the state. The revenue generated from this tax is intended to fund community safety initiatives but does not include any money given directly to domestic violence service providers. Rather, it designates a variety of statewide centers or funds that focus in violence prevention and medical issues surrounding gun violence, among others. The bill also appropriately excepts certain gun purchases from the excise tax.

House Bill 387 appropriately requires those who purchase guns to assist our state to address the negative consequences of gun ownership:

1. **Funding Community Safety Initiatives** – The tax revenue generated from firearm sales is directed toward programs aimed at reducing violence, including domestic violence prevention, survivor support services, and law enforcement training.
2. **Aligning Costs with Public Impact** – Gun-related violence and crime impose significant financial burdens on public health, law enforcement, and community programs. This tax ensures that those participating in the firearm market contribute to offsetting these costs.
3. **Preventive Measures Against Gun Violence** – By investing in community-based safety programs, mental health resources, and intervention initiatives, the bill proactively addresses risk factors that contribute to gun violence, including domestic violence situations where firearms are involved.

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ lruth@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 21401
Tel: 301-429-3601 ■ E-mail: info@mnadv.org ■ Website: www.mnadv.org



4. **Ensuring Responsible Firearm Commerce** – The tax applies at the point of sale, meaning firearm dealers and buyers contribute directly to the state’s safety initiatives, reinforcing the principle that *firearm ownership comes with societal responsibilities*.

While the bill does not specifically address domestic violence, the allocation of funds toward community safety would indirectly benefit domestic violence survivors. Enhanced community safety programs may include increased support services, improved law enforcement training, and other resources that assist survivors.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 387.**