

My name is Lisa Siano. I live in Columbia MD.

I am writing to support the passage of Senate Bill 20. It is very well known that women in abusive relationships are many times more likely to die if the abuser has access to a gun.

Extreme risk protection orders were enacted to protect women in such relationships. However, there is a dangerous gap in the law which allows an abuser to retain his weapons after a victim has petitioned for a protective order but before a judge has issued the order for the abuser's weapons to be removed. This is the most dangerous time for victims. It is essential that the current laws be amended or supplemented to protect victims of domestic violence from the threat of serious bodily injury or death from an abuser who has firearms.

Thank you for your consideration.