



Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and esteemed members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Layla Greten and I am writing today to voice my support for SB 0020, Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act. I am the Founder and President of Team ENOUGH Baltimore, a youth-led chapter dedicated to gun violence prevention under Brady United. As the President of Team ENOUGH Baltimore, I oversee nearly 50 students with a shared passion and commitment to gun violence prevention.

In the United States, 4.5 million women report being threatened with a gun by an intimate partner, and nearly one million have been shot by an intimate partner. The

presence of a firearm in a domestic violence incident increases the likelihood that a woman will be shot by five times.

Survivors in Maryland face the same risks due to the gap in firearm relinquishment protocols.

The Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act addresses these gaps by ensuring firearms are relinquished or removed during all stages of the protective order and would provide extra protection in these high-risk scenarios. Furthermore, research by the Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions has shown that Domestic Violence Protective orders are not commonly filed in conjunction with Extreme Risk Protective Orders. This can be in part due to negligence or oversight, or simply the fact that victims do not wish to undergo more paperwork and stress during these times.

In these situations, it is not only the victims who suffer. The children in these households are just as much at risk. Being exposed to that cycle of violence at a young age can increase the risks that children grow up to repeat acts of abuse. Not only can that trauma last with them for a lifetime, but often it is the children themselves who end up hurt. They are often at increased risk of developing PTSD, depression, or other anxiety disorders.

Furthermore, it is proven that children who are present when domestic violence takes place are more likely to be killed or injured. In situations of physical abuse towards a mother, there is physical abuse towards a child in  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the cases.

This issue is not just abstract to me, but personal. I have had a member of my family who was once in an abusive marriage. When discussing this bill, it made me think about what could have happened if her husband had access to a firearm. The thought alone is terrifying.

This bill is vital in protecting survivors of domestic violence, their children, and our communities from gun violence. Abuse that takes place after a protective order has been filed can be prevented, and I strongly urge a favorable report for SB 0020.

Layla Greten

Founder and President, Team ENOUGH Baltimore