

01/27/2026

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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0027- POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions

TO: Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB#/0027, **Regulated Firearms - Seven-Day Waiting Period – Exceptions**

Despite overwhelming evidence that this bill’s course of action is dangerous, this bill seeks to exempt a sale, rental, or transfer of a regulated firearm from the seven-day waiting period requirement if the purchaser, renter, or receiver of the firearm is a law enforcement officer, a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing, or an individual with a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun; etc.

Multiple studies have shown *Police Officer Domestic Violence Is A Crisis. It’s Time for States to Take Action*¹ The Scholars Strategy Network report declares

Domestic violence by police officers is a nationwide scourge. While the actual number of cases that happen every year is unknown, it’s likely in the tens of thousands. Police officers in almost every state have been charged with domestic violence since the start of 2025. Such figures demonstrate that police officer domestic violence is a structural failure, not the isolated misconduct of ‘a few bad apples.’

The National Center for Women and Policing has documented the problem.²

Two studies have found that at least 40% of police officer families experience domestic violence, (1, 2) in contrast to 10% of families in the general population.(3) A third study of older and more experienced officers found a rate of 24% (4), indicating that domestic violence is 24 times more common among police families than American families in general. A police department that has domestic violence offenders among its ranks will not effectively serve and protect victims in the community.5, 6, 7, 8 Moreover, when officers know of domestic violence committed by their colleagues and seek to protect them by covering it up, they expose the department to civil liability.7

¹ <https://scholars.org/contribution/police-officer-domestic-violence-crisis-its>

² https://SB0027_RichardKaplowitz_UNF

olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2017R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/132808

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The Brady United Organization has studied the problem of gun violence extensively. They have found that *Firearms are the weapons of choice for domestic violence homicides*³

Given the higher rates of domestic violence committed by police officers and the fact that firearms are the “weapon of choice” it makes little sense to extend these exceptions to the seven day waiting period simply because the person “...is a law enforcement officer, a retired law enforcement officer who retired in good standing, or an individual with a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun.”

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB#/0027.

³ <https://www.bradyunited.org/resources/research/guns-in-the-hands-of-domestic-abusers-2>