

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**Institute for Legislative Action**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

January 16, 2026

National Rifle Association

11250 Waples Mill Road

Fairfax, VA 22030

October 24, 2025

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Weber and I represent the National Rifle Association and our members in Maryland. The NRA is opposed to Senate Bill 20. This legislation creates an overlapping confiscation scheme on top of Maryland's existing domestic violence and Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) laws, with substantial due process, enforcement, and practical problems and no clear evidence of added public safety benefit.

First, Maryland already disarms abusers. Under current law, a final protective order requires firearm surrender and prohibits possession for the life of the order, and Maryland's ERPO statute already allows quick, firearm-specific orders, mandatory surrender, and search warrants when there is evidence a person is dangerous and possess firearms. SB 20 does not tighten those standards or fix a clearly documented gap, it simply pushes mandatory gun and license confiscation earlier in the process, at the ex parte and temporary stages, where the respondent may not have been heard at all. That converts what has been a serious civil remedy into an automatic disarmament tool based on one-sided allegations.

Second, the bill builds a complex bureaucracy around law-abiding gun owners rather than targeting proven abusers. It requires petitioners to guess at detailed firearm information and locations, and forces respondents either to surrender all firearms and licenses within 24 hours of service or file affidavits within two business days under penalty of perjury, including producing paperwork for recent lawful transfers. A person who misremembers a sale date or forgets an old firearm in storage faces new criminal exposure that has nothing to do with actual violence, while genuinely dangerous offenders who already ignore existing orders are unlikely to suddenly comply with new paperwork demands.

Third, SB 20 effectively turns every qualifying protective order into a fishing expedition. It directs law enforcement to verify compliance within three business days and, if they think someone is not in full technical compliance, to notify prosecutors and "take appropriate steps," explicitly including search warrants to seize guns from homes and vehicles. That increases the risk of wrongful raids and dangerous confrontations, which is bad for both victims and officers.

Fourth, these new mandates impose real costs on police and courts. Agencies will be required to comply with 24 hour deadlines, conduct compliance checks on every respondent, store and inventory seized firearms, manage releases, sales, and destruction, and handle disputes and

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litigation over mistakes. Departments already struggle with ERPO service and storage demands; duplicating and expanding that framework in the domestic violence subtitle will pull officers off the street to do gun room and paperwork duty.

Finally, by making firearm confiscation automatic at the temporary stage, SB 20 magnifies the impact of any false, exaggerated claim in custody disputes. A temporary order based on a low standard suddenly triggers automatic loss of firearms, licenses, and employment in some cases, plus the prospect of warrants, all before a full hearing on the merits.

In closing, Maryland already has powerful tools to disarm truly dangerous individuals through final protective orders, criminal prohibitions, and ERPOs. SB 20 does not meaningfully improve those tools. For these reasons, NRA respectfully urges the committee to oppose Senate Bill 20

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Weber  
State Director  
NRA-ILA