

Senate Bill 20: Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act
Senate Judicial Proceedings
January 20, 2026
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the committee,

My name is Eileen Zeller. I live in Clarksville (District 9) and volunteer with the Howard County Local Group of the Maryland Chapter of Moms Demand Action. I am writing in support of SB 20.

I'd like to make two points.

First, this bill is supported by law enforcement, domestic violence organizations, and gun violence prevention organizations, all of which contributed to its drafting.

Second, as you know, the period immediately after a temporary protective order is issued is extremely dangerous, with a high risk of retaliation or escalation. Courts do not issue domestic violence protective orders casually. Even temporary orders require sworn testimony, judicial review, and a finding that harm or threats are credible enough to warrant immediate protection. If the risk is serious enough to restrict contact, it is serious enough to restrict access to lethal weapons without delay.

I urge a favorable report for SB20.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Zeller
Clarksville (District 9)