

HB0083\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

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**TESTIMONY ON HB#0083 - POSITION: FAVORABLE  
Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**

**TO:** Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0083, **Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act**

The purpose of this bill is to provide victims of domestic violence more surety that the abuser will be protected from their abuser possessing firearms. It accomplishes this by altering and establishing provisions relating to the surrender of firearms by a respondent under the domestic violence statutes; and requiring a local law enforcement authority to take certain actions within 3 business days after service of an order against a respondent who is not in compliance with an order to surrender certain firearms.

According to the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University:

Violence against partners and family members is a public health crisis, and, given the accessibility and availability of guns in America, this violence is often perpetrated with a firearm.

Domestic violence homicide data does not accurately capture the magnitude of domestic violence fatalities and use of firearms in domestic violence. These gaps make it challenging to understand the full scope of domestic violence nationally and to advocate for and implement data-driven domestic violence prevention strategies on the national, state, and local level. Even when there are no shots fired, abusers often use the mere presence of a firearm to intimidate, control, coerce, threaten, and injure intimate partners.<sup>1</sup>

This bill recognizes the dangers of firearms in the possession of anyone who has committed domestic violence and empowers law enforcement to take immediate action to prevent a tragedy from occurring.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0083.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/domestic-violence-and-firearms>