

01/28/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
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**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0223- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Resources, Tools, and Educational Materials**

**TO:** Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary 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 support of HB#/0223, Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Resources, Tools, and Educational Materials**

This bill recognizes the impact gun violence has in Maryland and aims to ensure the sustained funding of effective programs dedicated to violence prevention and witness support.

Maryland is a leader in attempting to deal with the problem of gun violence. This bill will alter the powers of the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention to include the creation of certain resources, tools, and educational materials related to firearms; and authorize the Center to consult with State and local agencies and third-party organizations in carrying out those powers. This bill will put Maryland at the forefront of having funding for significant programs to tackle the problems from misuse of firearms. This bill expresses support for The Center for Firearm Violence & Intervention.

The Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention was established in October 2024, through [legislation](#) passed by the Maryland General Assembly. The creation of the new Center was spearheaded and championed by the Moore-Miller Administration as a part of its [strategic state plan](#) to create safer communities by addressing the firearm violence epidemic. The Center is intended to serve as a hub to connect with agencies, local health departments, law enforcement, community members, advocates, medical professionals, and others to assess the current landscape of gun violence prevention programs and campaigns, facilitate collaboration and coordination, and identify and fill policy, implementation, and funding gaps. <sup>1</sup>

This bill will support that mission of the center.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0223.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://health.maryland.gov/violence-prevention/Pages/Home.aspx>