



Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill: House Bill 1608 – Public Safety – Firearms – Storage Requirements

Hearing Date: March 13, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 1608 – Public Safety – Firearms – Storage Requirements*. This legislation strengthens Maryland’s gun safety laws by requiring safe storage and establishing clear expectations to reduce the risk of unauthorized access to firearms and prevent avoidable injuries and deaths.

This legislation takes an important step in improving Maryland’s public safety and protecting children and families throughout the state. Gun violence in Maryland has become a significant concern, with rates of gun deaths rising by 37% from 2014 to 2023, and in 2023, firearms were the leading cause of death among young people ages 1–17.¹ It is essential to act now in order to protect children and youth in Maryland. With 17% of all firearm deaths among children and teens resulting from suicide and 83% resulting from homicide, it is critical to address this issue to prevent gun violence against one of our most vulnerable populations.²

ACNM members recognize that preventing firearm-related injuries is an important component of promoting community health. Certified nurse midwives regularly care for individuals who may have been affected by gun violence. By requiring that firearms be stored safely when not in use, Maryland promotes safety practices and responsible firearm ownership. Safe storage practices are essential to ensuring that firearms do not fall into the hands of individuals who should not have access to them.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

¹ <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/data/state-gun-violence-data/maryland>

² <https://smchd.org/health-topics/violence-injury-and-trauma/gun-safety/#:~:text=In%20Maryland%2C%2064%20children%20and,dangerous%20accidents%20and%20fatal%20misuses.>