



TESTIMONY FOR HB0083 Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Bartlett

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0083 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are very proud of the General Assembly's restrictions on firearms in the state. No one needs to carry a loaded firearm to the grocery store, or to visit relatives, or take their child to school. Limiting firearms and keeping them out of the hands of people who are likely to do violence with them is common sense, regardless of what the gun lobbies say.

It is particularly important to keep guns out of the hands of people who are perpetrators of domestic violence. This bill, if enacted, would tighten the laws around people who are served a temporary protective order or a final protective order due to violence or abuse. It adds to the request for the protective order a requirement to describe if the perpetrator owns or has access to firearms and what type of firearms and where those firearms are located.

Additionally, if the protective order is served, it requires the person who receives the protective order to surrender their firearms within 24 hours or prove that they no longer have them or have access to them. If, within 3 days of the protective order being served, the person who received the protective order has not surrendered their firearms, the State's Attorney's Office will be notified and a search and seizure warrant will be issued. This is an important step towards ensuring the safety of victims of domestic violence and abuse.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.