



BILL NO: House Bill 223
TITLE: **Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention - Resources, Tools, and Educational Materials**
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: January 28, 2026
POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that works to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence. MANDV urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on House Bill 223.

The Center for Firearms Prevention and Intervention (“the Center”) was created in 2025 by the administration and legislation with the Maryland Department of Health. The mission of this office is to view gun violence from a public health lens and to implement programs to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State.

A comprehensive public health approach is necessary to addressing the leading cause of premature deaths in the U.S. House Bill 223 would help address this dire issue by increasing the authority of the Center by outlining and expanding previous language regarding their mandate to “conduct public awareness campaigns,” as well as including the authority to work with partners specifically on these programs. The addition includes specific campaign topics as well as “any other topics the Center determines appropriate and necessary to promote firearm safety in the state.”

Having already worked with the Center, MNADV fully supports allowing the Center to broaden its scope and ability to work with community partners to address the scourge of gun violence in our state.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 223.

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