

HB 83
Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act

UNFAVORABLE

HB 83, the so-called “Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act” would dramatically expand firearm surrender tied to civil protective orders without due process protections. This bill will not reduce violence or provide resources to improve domestic violence prevention and protection.

HB 83 would:

- Make gun and license surrender automatic at the interim and temporary protective-order stages, often based only on one-sided “reasonable grounds” findings before any full hearing.
- Remove existing language that ties firearm seizure to actual threats or use of a gun, replacing it with blanket disarmament for a wide range of “abuse” allegations.
- Force respondents to surrender all firearms and credentials within 24 hours or file affidavits and supply transfer paperwork under penalty of perjury—creating criminal exposure for technical errors, not violent behavior.
- Push law enforcement to verify “compliance” on every case and move toward search warrants and home seizures of firearms rooted in civil proceedings.

Maryland already has an ERPO law that disarms individuals through final protective orders. HB 83 will only pile on new mandates, paperwork, and penalties aimed at gun owners who have not been convicted of any disqualifying crime.

This bill is UNCONSTITUTIONAL and will not protect our citizens and families. I respectfully request an UNFAVORABLE report on HB 83.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy S. Wright, self
North Beach, MD 20714
cathywrightnra@gmail.com
919.360.0484