



BILL NO: House Bill 1417
TITLE: Public Safety - Handgun Permit Requirement - Maryland's Constitutional Carry Act
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: February
POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 1417.**

Current Maryland law requires one to obtain a permit to wear, carry, or transport a handgun in public. House Bill 1417 would repeal the requirement that a person over the age of 21 must obtain a permit before the person carries, wears, or transports a handgun. Of the 58 domestic violence related deaths in Maryland in 2021, 76% were caused by guns.

Higher rates of firearm ownership correlate to a higher rate of domestic violence homicide according to a 2019 study.¹ There is a 65% higher incidence rate of domestic firearm homicide in the states with the highest firearm ownership compared to states with lower ownership rates.² Since women are the most common victims of domestic violence homicide, they are most at risk with increased gun ownership.³ Black women are disproportionately the victims of domestic violence homicide with a firearm with an estimated 51.3% of Black adult female homicides found to be related to intimate partner violence.⁴ The risk of homicide for women increases by 500% with the presence of a gun in the home.⁵

¹ Kivisto, A.J., Magee, L.A., Phalen, P.L., Ray, B.R. (2019). Firearm ownership and domestic versus nondomestic homicide in the U.S. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Abstract: [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(19\)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(19)30197-7/fulltext#articleInformation)

² Merovsh, Sarah. "Gun Ownership Rates Tied to Domestic Homicides, but Not Other Killings, Study Finds," NY Times, (July 22, 2019) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/us/gun-ownership-violence-statistics.html>

³ *Id.*

⁴ Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.

⁵ The National Domestic Violence Hotline, Retrieved 1/29/21, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/safety-planning-around-guns-and-firearms/>

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Between 2019 and 2023, there were 237 deaths related to domestic violence. Of those 75% were committed using guns. In 2024, of the 41 domestic violence related death, 63% were committed using guns⁶.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges an unfavorable report on HB 1417.**

⁶ MNADV collects this data yearly. Reports are available on request. 2025 numbers are pending.