



Testimony of Kelly Sampson, Senior Policy Counsel, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
Support for HB 0083 Before the House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice-Chair Davis, and Distinguished Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works to change the law, change the industry, and change culture to free America from gun violence. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans across the country in the fight to prevent gun violence.

In that legacy, today we stand in support of HB 0083, which would reduce the scourge of domestic violence in Maryland.

In 2022, domestic violence killed 56 Marylanders, and 75% of those deaths were from a firearm. This bill, the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act, accomplishes two main, life-saving objectives.¹ HB 0083 would require subjects of a protective order to relinquish their firearms early in the protective order process and create a standardized process for the relinquishment of firearms in both a standard and temporary protective order. It also addresses Law Enforcement's concerns by providing them clear guidelines on how to handle a firearm if the respondent does not want to reclaim the firearm after the order has ceased.

Given the proven nexus between domestic violence and firearms, the provision requiring a respondent to surrender firearms early in the process is incredibly important. Every 12 hours, someone is shot and killed by a current or former intimate partner.² The presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.³ The use of guns in

¹ Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. 2024. "2022-2023 MD-DVFRSIT Report." Maryland Domestic Violence Statistics. https://www.canva.com/design/DAFt3ukicdU/RCdvgrSYiHmYhpjezrG9g/view?utm_content=DAFt3ukicdU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h469d072c39&kuid=3cb12f52-f638-4860-b7bb-47f0da724d6c-1768524729&kref=TIIn06wCfpzZa.

² Brady United. n.d. "Firearm Intimate Partner Homicides." <https://www.bradyunited.org/fact-sheets/intimate-partner-homicides-firearms-scotus>.

³ Campbell, Jacquelyn C. et. al. 2003. "Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study." *American Journal of Public Health* 93, no. 7 (July).

domestic violence homicides increases the risk of multiple victims by 70.9%.⁴ In non-domestic violence homicides, this likelihood is increased by only 38.7%. Children are three times more likely to be shot at home from domestic violence incidents than at a school. As such, this measure would save not only direct victims and their families but also the greater public. In America, 60% of mass shooting events between 2014 and 2019 were either domestic violence attacks or perpetrated by those with a history of domestic violence.⁵

Brady is proud to support HB 0083 because it will protect Marylanders from violence. For the reasons described above, Brady urges the House Judiciary Committee to support the passage of this lifesaving bill.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sampson
Senior Policy Counsel
The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

⁴ Gold, Liza H. 2020. "Domestic Violence, Firearms, and Mass Shootings." *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, (Feb). 10.29158/JAAPL.003929-20. <https://jaapl.org/content/early/2020/02/05/JAAPL.003929-20>

⁵ Gu, Jackie. 2020. "Deadliest Mass Shootings are Often Preceded by Violence at the Home." *Bloomberg*, June 30, 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-mass-shootings-domestic-violence-connection/>.