



Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21218

(410) 554-8463 • Fax: (410) 243-3014 • www.hruth.org • legal@hruthmd.org

Toll Free: 1-888-880-7884 • Maryland Relay: 711

Bill No.: House Bill 83
Bill Title: Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Hearing Date: January 29, 2026
Position: **FAV**

House of Ruth is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. House Bill 83 would broaden the circumstances under which respondents in protective order cases are required to surrender firearms. **We urge the House Judiciary Committee to favorably report on House Bill 83.**

Currently, the protective order statute requires respondents to surrender firearms after issuance of a final protective order. Courts may order a respondent to surrender firearms at the temporary protective order stage under certain circumstances and in the discretion of the judge. House Bill 83 would expand the current law to require surrender of firearms upon issuance of any temporary protective order.

Research shows that an abuser's possession of a firearm is a strong risk factor contributing to the likelihood of a domestic violence victim's death or serious bodily injury. Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of Johns Hopkins University conducted an intimate partner femicide study. She studied factors increasing the risk of intimate partner homicide and near homicide in ten cities around the country. Dr. Campbell's research concluded that the **perpetrator having access to a gun increased the victim's odds for being killed almost 5 ½ times** over other victims.

Victims of domestic violence are at increased risk of harm immediately after separating from their abusive partners. Expanding the protective order statute to require surrender of firearms at the temporary stage will provide important protection for victims.

The House of Ruth urges the House Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 83.