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## **Maryland Violence Prevention Coalition Praises Senate for Maryland Center for Firearm Prevention Passage**

**Annapolis, MD** — Today, Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, Community Justice, and the Maryland Violence Prevention Coalition applauds the Maryland General Assembly for passing legislation (SB475/HB583) creating a state level office of gun violence prevention. The new Maryland Center for Firearm Prevention and Intervention will be structured within the Maryland Department of Health.

We are taking a remarkable step toward establishing a true public-health approach to addressing gun violence on a state-wide scale. Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. Gun violence rates are greatly impacted by how healthy conditions are in the places that people live and in the behaviors that they engage in. The establishment of the new Center will enable the state to address gun violence comprehensively and most importantly at earlier stages in the cycles of violence.

Coalition leaders released the following statement:

“For years the coalition and local partners have worked tirelessly to bring about meaningful change for Maryland’s approach to gun violence prevention. The passage of this legislation marks a significant step towards a proactive and comprehensive approach to address and reduce gun violence across the state.”

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