**Who I Represent**

For the past 20 years the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) has been working to end domestic violence against women. MNADV works with domestic violence service providers and criminal justice personnel throughout the state to provide consistent community responses to domestic violence. In support of community response, MNADV focuses its lobbying efforts on changes needed in state law and has aided in passing almost thirty pieces of domestic violence legislation. Currently, we support the passage of HB146 Domestic Violence Protective Order Additional Relief. This legislation provides for legal procedures requiring domestic abusers to surrender firearms after a protective order hearing.

**Our Position**

The issue is whether a person who has been accused of an act of domestic violence should be allowed to own firearms. As a representative for MNADV, I am here to say that we strongly feel that keeping guns out of the hands of batterers will help prevent further physical injury to victims. In Maryland, the majority of domestic violence incidents involve a gun or other firearm.

Currently, Maryland has no law that keeps guns away from batterers. As a result, men who are convicted of domestic violence often end up going back to their victims, with a gun, when their sentence is over. If Maryland does not pass a law preventing batterers from owning firearms, victims who have survived are more likely to become victims again. If Maryland fails to pass such a law, the state is also failing to adequately protect abused women.

If a person convicted of, or accused of, domestic violence is charged with a misdemeanor for owning a firearm as HB 146 provides, the number of deaths due to guns in the case of domestic violence will be lowered.

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Action: Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence