

## Testimony

# House Public Safety Firearms Subcommittee February 1, 2024

### HB1195

Firearms; waiting period for purchases, penalty.

This bill would help to prevent mass shootings such as the one last year in the Chesapeake Wal-Mart in which the gunman bought his weapon on the same day he used it to injure four, kill six co-workers including a sixteen year old student, before shooting and killing himself. People in crisis should not have easy and immediate access to firearms. Laws like this one save innocent lives and keep guns out of the hands of those who intend to do irreparable harm

#### HB362

Firearms; purchase, etc., following an assault and battery against person in dating relationship.

In the U.S. today, an average of 70 women a month are shot and killed by an intimate partner. The League of Women Voters joins other gun violence prevention organizations in supporting this bill that will close the boyfriend loophole and protect women from those intimate partners who intend to use their firearms to harm themselves or others. "

#### HB1230

School board employees, certain; possession of firearms on school property.

The LWV joins school safety experts, teachers and law enforcement in opposing the idea of having anyone other than trained law enforcement carrying firearms on school

property. This is because the evidence shows that when people bring guns onto school property, they can be lost, misfired and misplaced leading to greater danger for our students, teachers and staff. As in examples such as the Uvalde, Parkland and other mass school shootings, the idea of a "good guy with a gun" is a myth. There are many other effective ways to prevent gun violence in schools - this one is a dangerous bill that threatens real harm and loss of life.