



Delegate  
**Geraldine**  
**VALENTINO-SMITH**

Responsible Leadership



Dear Friends,

I wanted to let you know that County Executive Alsobrooks is holding her first **"Community Conversation"** at [Wise High School](#) (12650 Brooke Ln, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772) on January 30, 2019 from 6-8pm if you wish to share your thoughts on the County budget or other issues of importance to you.

In addition, I wanted to share with you the success of the "Red Flag" Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), to help curb the epidemic of gun violence, which I proudly sponsored and was signed into law October 1, 2018. An ERPO is a court-issued civil order temporarily sought when someone has expressed an intent to harm themselves or others. The ERPO requires a person to surrender any firearms or ammunition to law enforcement and orders them not to purchase or possess firearms or ammunition for a set period of time. The Judiciary Committee held a briefing on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> where the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court, the Sheriff of Montgomery County, the President of Marylander's to Prevent Gun Violence and I presented a summary of the bill to the new Committee Members. There have been 302 ERPO requested since October in the first three months of the law. The number of petitioners from family members and close acquaintances outweighed the number of law enforcement official requests, sending signal that the tool was clearly and helpful for families who seek remedies for their loved ones who are experiencing a dangerous time in their life. [You can view a helpful pamphlet here.](#) We can say with confidence the legislation has very likely saved lives.

If you would like to read more about the briefing, here are some links to the news coverage discussing the details:



[Washington Post Red-flag law in Maryland led to](#)

[gun seizures from 148 people in first three months](#)

[Baltimore Sun Sheriff: Maryland's 'red flag' law prompted gun seizures after four 'significant threats' against schools](#)



[Capital Gazette Maryland red flag law prompts more than 300 court orders](#)



[The Daily Record New Md. red-flag law is saving lives, House panel told](#)

The legislative deadline for requesting legislation is fast approaching next week. As always, please feel free to contact me to discuss any issue that is on your mind. You can always reach me at [Geraldine.Valentino@house.state.md.us](mailto:Geraldine.Valentino@house.state.md.us) or call 301-858-3101. It remains my privilege to represent you.

Sincerely,

*Geraldine*

Geraldine Valentino-Smith  
Delegate, District 23A  
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By Authority of Friends For Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Elizabeth Ryan, Treasurer

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