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LETTERS

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Reasonable to limit gun rights of abusers

We have no problem with hunters having access to guns, or people owning legal firearms, properly stored, for self-defense. However, all reasonable people surely must agree that there are circumstances that justify the termination of that right (“Added protection,” editorial, Feb. 3). And a gun owner with a history of violence against his or her partner falls into this category, even if he or she is not a convicted criminal.

Those of us who work with the victims of domestic violence know that the time between the issuing of a temporary and a final protective order is when a victim is at the highest risk of attack by her partner.

In Baltimore and Carroll counties, where Family and Children’s Services of Central Maryland provides domestic violence services, we have seen an increase in the use of weapons in domestic violence situations. During these turbulent economic times, we fear an increase in fatalities.

Changing the law to allow the confiscation of guns from the recipient of a temporary protective order, with the possibility of a permanent removal of guns in the event of a final protective order, is plain-old common sense.

Doing so would give law enforcement officials and the courts one more tool to protect victims and their children.

Such a law would not protect every victim. But if it saved one life, it would be worthwhile.

How many more women must die? How many more children must witness such violence and be left without a mother or father?

It is time to act.

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Family and Children’s Services of Central Maryland offers counseling, support and emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence and their children in Baltimore and Carroll counties. For more information, please call:
Baltimore County 410-281-1334
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Emergency Hotline 800-799-7233