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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB858 – Firearm Safety – Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide
Prevention (Jaelynn’s Law) **SUPPORT**

The Office of Attorney General supports Senate Bill 858, Chairman Smith’s bill prohibiting the storage of firearms and ammunition in a manner that allows access by juveniles. This carefully crafted legislation permits lawful firearm owners to continue possessing and maintaining their firearms but only in a secure fashion.

Access to an unsecured firearm elevates suicide and homicide risks for all members of a household. With increased gun ownership in Maryland during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. ___, 142 S.Ct. 2111 (2022), additional safety requirements are necessary to prevent future deaths among Maryland’s youth.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to favorably report SB 858.

cc: Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General’s policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us