



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0547**  
**Crime of Violence - Educational Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Places of**  
**Worship - Penalty (Sacred Places Safety Act)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Alston

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0547 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland needs to produce much more solar energy than it is currently projected to produce in order to meet its statutory greenhouse gas reduction requirements. There are many barriers to installation of solar that must be removed.

What a world we find ourselves in. There are more guns than people now, and more and more of our children are dying. Families are afraid to worship. Hospitals and schools are not safe spaces.

It is a societal failure at we can't rein this problem in because too many people value their guns more than their families and their neighbors. So, we need this bill to at least make it a felony to commit a crime of violence in or near a school, a medical facility (including hospitals) or a place of worship. That conviction would result in imprisonment of not more than 10 years.

If we can't muster the courage to ban guns entirely, the least we can do for our children and our neighbors is to make the penalty of using one in a safe space very, very costly.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.