



**LAILA'S GIFT**  
*Celebrating One Gift at a Time*

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**HOUSE BILL 34 - Municipalities – Open Drainage Inlets – Required Grating Systems (Mason's Law)**

**Committee: House Environment and Transportation**

**Position: Favorable**

Laila's Gift respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill 34 (Mason's Law), which requires municipalities to install approved grating systems on new and existing open drainage inlets.

At Laila's Gift, our mission is to advocate for, support, and celebrate children with special needs and disabilities and their families. This bill advances safety for all individuals, while also recognizing the heightened vulnerability of those who may not have an inherent awareness of danger or environmental risk.

House Bill 34 reflects that principle by advancing a clear, proactive safety measure designed to prevent future loss of life.

Open drainage inlets pose a serious and well-documented safety risk, particularly to children. These hazards are often unmarked, unsecured, and indistinguishable from safe surroundings—yet the consequences of exposure can be catastrophic.

This legislation does not introduce experimental or untested concepts. Instead, it mandates the use of existing, proven infrastructure solutions that significantly reduce the risk of injury or death.

By establishing a clear deadline for retrofitting existing open drainage inlets, the bill ensures that known hazards are addressed systematically rather than left to chance or reactive measures.

House Bill 34 embodies a growing recognition that preventing tragedy requires action before—not after—harm occurs. Across public policy areas, Maryland has increasingly embraced approaches that prioritize early intervention, environmental safeguards, and system readiness to protect children and communities.

This bill fits squarely within that preventive framework by addressing an identifiable risk through infrastructure improvements that save lives without relying on behavior change, enforcement, or emergency response after an incident has already occurred.



No family should experience the preventable loss of a child due to a known and correctable hazard. House Bill 34 offers a practical, effective, and humane solution that will save lives and prevent irreversible harm.

For these reasons, Laila's Gift respectfully urges the Committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 34.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting Maryland's children and communities.

Warm regards,

Shari Bailey  
Founder, CEO, Caregiver  
Laila's Gift