

ALICE CAIN
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Election Law Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 154
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3211 · 301-858-3211
800-492-7122 Ext. 3211
Alice.Cain@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Alice Cain
Before the House Judiciary Committee**

**In Support of HB1501
Public Safety – Regulated Firearms – Reporting Loss or Theft**

**March 4, 2020
1:00pm**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about this simple and straightforward bill that requires gun owners to report a lost or stolen weapon within 48 hours.

The idea for this bill came from the Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, which is one of many actions my district has taken in response to the Capital Gazette shootings in 2018.

When a gun is lost or stolen, every minute it remains unrecovered is crucial. Current law allows 72 hours – or three days – to report a gun as lost or stolen.

Stolen weapons create two major public risks. First, 85% of high school-aged school shooters got their weapons from home¹, as was the case in the 2018 St. Mary's County school shooting where two students died and one was injured².

Second, stolen weapons are often trafficked and sold to individuals who are prohibited from possessing guns³, undermining laws meant to keep guns out of the hands of those with harmful intent.

The sooner a firearm is reported lost or stolen, the sooner it can be found, reducing the likelihood of it being used in a crime.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this bill.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-school-shootings-most-guns-come-from-home-1522920600>

²

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/op-ed/bs-ed-op-0929-gun-laws-20190927-6bzwidbrndnlomfonr2xvhnlu-story.html>

³ https://everytownresearch.org/stolen-guns-pose-tremendous-risk-public-safety/#foot_note_16