



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0599  
PUBLIC SAFETY – SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT – PROHIBITION ON PURCHASE  
BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Smith

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0599 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.

Our Coalition members appreciate that police officers have a hard job. However, they don't need tanks, grenade launchers and other sophisticated military equipment that is designed to be used on a battlefield. Their job is to protect the peace, not make our streets into a war zone.

People should not walk around scared because of an alarming overabundance of military-grade weapons. Law enforcement personnel already have enough automatic weaponry. Let us not over-militarize our police.

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