



TESTIMONY FOR HB0659
Voting Firearm Safety – Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention
(Jaelynn’s Law)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stein

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0659 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.

This bill would make it a misdemeanor for a person to store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knew or REASONABLY should have known that an unsupervised minor IS LIKELY TO gain access to the firearm. The fines are \$1,000 to \$5,000 and 90 days to 3 years in prison, depending on whether someone was hurt. Additionally, the Public Health Service would be required to create a suicide prevention and safe storage guide that discusses how many people are killed by finding loaded guns in the home. That guide would be available on their website.

Given the number of deaths (and especially children’s deaths) that occur because adults who own guns are not careful about how they store them, this is a very reasonable measure that can prevent so many tragic deaths.

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