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BILL NO.: **House Bill 659**

TITLE: Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 23, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 659 - Firearm Safety - Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law). This legislation would strengthen firearm safety regulation for those firearms stored near minors and require the State to put out a Youth Suicide Prevention and Firearm Safety Guide.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in cases of depression and anxiety among children. This, along with a lack of stringent rules for firearm safety storage, can have devastating impacts on young people and their families. Since taking office, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski has worked tirelessly to ensure these deadly weapons do not fall into the wrong hands, passing landmark legislation in Baltimore County to prevent firearm theft.

House Bill 659 protects Maryland's children by establishing greater firearm safety measures for firearms that could be accessible to a minor. This legislation ensures better community safety practices by requiring the State to publish a Youth Suicide Prevention and Firearm Safety Guide for enhanced public information. These measures could be lifesaving for children and families throughout the State of Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 659. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.