

For Hearing February 15, 2023

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am a Maryland resident and voter and am continually distressed by increasing gun violence in our country, particularly the fact that that firearms are now the leading cause of death for children under the age of 18 in our state.

Please strongly support HB 307, Safe Storage/Jaelynn's Law, and gives its shepherding through the committee and hearing process your highest priority.

Considering the incredible uptick in firearms purchases during Covid and then the federal Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision that made obtaining a gun permit in Maryland dramatically easier, leading to a exponential increase in permit applications and grants, it is critical that the safe storage of guns be mandated in Maryland, to protect children and everyone.

Thanks to Delegate Bartlett for sponsoring this bill. I urge the committee to favorably report on HB 307.

Thank you,

Andrea LeWinter