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Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on
Legislative Ethics

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology,
and Biotechnology



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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support

HB753 - Juvenile Court - Jurisdiction - Gun Offenses

(Juvenile Gun Offenses Accountability Act of 2023)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, and members of the Judiciary Committee:

A 12-year-old boy brought a gun to MacArthur Middle School on Jan. 5, 2023, in Anne Arundel County. Fortunately, no one was harmed as a school resource officer was given a tip about the gun, loaded magazine, and additional ammunition. It was confiscated by the SRO and the Anne Arundel Police Department harangued the legislature for excluding gun crimes from the list of possible charges of minors under 13. Other law enforcement agencies throughout the state, tagged onto the Anne Arundel Police Department statement with a long list of concerns related to the enactment of HB459. Additionally, there was widespread public outrage, among people of all political beliefs, and demands that this be corrected through legislation this session.

While this bill does not address all the concerns raised by the community and others, it does one extremely important thing, in the lists of crimes a juvenile may be charged with delinquency it adds:

A CRIME INVOLVING THE USE OR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM, AS DEFINED IN § 5–101 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE

In my testimony, I have included links to one of the news reports about the situation that I referenced in Anne Arundel County. Also, I've included a link to a Baltimore Banner report titled "**Nearly one in three people shot in 2023 were 18 or under as gun violence flares near schools.**" I encourage the committee to read and consider this report as they deliberate this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman, and members I urge you to report HB753 favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mic Kipke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Reference:

Under new Maryland law, student doesn't face charges after bringing gun to school

<https://wjla.com/news/local/12-year-old-brought-a-gun-to-school-macarthur-middle-school-no-legal-consequences-juvenile-justice-reform-house-bill-459-anne-arundel-county-police-handgun-magazine-ammunition-maryland-crime-laws>

Nearly one in three people shot in 2023 were 18 or under as gun violence flares near schools

<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/criminal-justice/teenage-shootings-gun-violence-UFHVSE7HWVDGPB6YEFXLN4HQPO/>