



TESTIMONY FOR SB1097

Public Safety - Gun Buyback Programs Destruction of Firearms

Bill Sponsors: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings, Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB1097 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Laws surrounding gun buyback programs need to be strengthened. SB1097 requires a person or entity operating a gun buyback program to destroy a firearm, including ALL COMPONENTS AND PARTS attached to the firearm, that is voluntarily traded in. SB1097 would also authorize a certain person or entity to contract with a law enforcement agency, an organization, or a business to destroy certain firearms, and would require the Secretary of State Police to revoke a license if provisions of the bill are violated.

Our members believe firmly in common sense gun legislation, as do most gun owners and the majority of residents in Maryland. We have a lot of solid, common-sense laws on the books, but like many states, we continue to see gun-related crimes and deaths.

Gun buybacks aim to reduce the number of firearms in circulation. Unwanted or improperly stored guns can become targets for theft or misuse. In addition, these programs raise awareness about gun safety, responsible storage, and violence prevention strategies.

Our members think this legislation is long overdue and should be passed as quickly as possible. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.