



TESTIMONY FOR HB0869
Public Safety – Firearm Background Checks, Victim Notification,
and the Maryland State Police Gun Center

Bill Sponsors: Delegate Bartlett

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0869 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.

MLC supports a bill that requires a law enforcement agency to inform a person that their victimizer failed a gun background check. While it's good that a background check was performed and, presumably, that the firearm was not sold. However, other entities need to know that the victimizer tried to buy a firearm and has failed a background check. That would include local law enforcement agencies and victims.

The risk of homicide for women increases five-fold with the presence of a gun in the home. Young, racial/ethnic minority women are especially at risk and represent a disproportionate number of domestic violence homicides, especially by firearms.

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 deaths by people who should never, ever have access to a gun. We need to protect victims from these people.

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.