



TESTIMONY FOR SB0509

Prohibited Possession of Firearms – Assisted Outpatient Treatment Respondents

Bill Sponsor: Senator Henson

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0509 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Gun violence in Maryland is a pressing issue. In 2023 alone, an estimated 737 people lost their lives to gun-related injuries, including homicides, suicides, accidents, and other incidents (USAFACTS.org). Since 1982, there have been 10 mass shootings in the state (statista.com).

The Maryland state legislature has in the past passed some common-sense gun control legislation that helps keep Marylanders safe. This bill, if enacted, would prohibit a person from possessing a regulated firearm, rifle, or shotgun if they have been subject to a court order to undergo assisted outpatient treatment. Anyone who is in therapy should not have a gun.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.