



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0443**  
**Trafficking Regulated Firearms – Felony Classification**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Smith

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0443 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.

Firearm violence is escalating across the country due to the proliferation of firearms and the lack of laws that restrict use. Fortunately, Maryland has always been a state that believes in regulating firearms, but there are too many instances where firearms are bought into the state to evade our laws.

This bill, if enacted, would reclassify the act of transporting a regulated firearm into the state in order to sell or traffic it as a felony, with a fine of up to \$25,000 and up to 10 years of prison. Our members believe that we must do all we can to keep firearms from being trafficked into Maryland.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.