



## TESTIMONY

### HB1031 – Maryland National Guard – Use of Force Standards and Prohibitions

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Bartlett

**Committee:** House Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1031 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB1031 establishes clear, statewide standards for when and how members of the Maryland National Guard may use force while operating within our communities. It also prohibits conduct that violates these standards and results in serious physical injury or death. In plain terms, this bill ensures that Guard members prevent harm, act with restraint, and remain accountable when they are deployed in Maryland.

Recent events across the country have shown how quickly abuse escalates when no one is required to step in, and when force is used without clear limits. Protecting life is a core responsibility of everyone operating in our neighborhoods—whether they wear a police uniform or a National Guard uniform.

I continue to exercise my First Amendment rights in response to recent events. HB1031 protects me in these activities, and it strengthens safety for all Marylanders. Whether someone is speaking out, recording government activity, or simply going about their day, they deserve to know that Guard members are bound by transparent, humane standards and cannot use excessive force with impunity.

This legislation is fully aligned with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition, which is rooted in transparency, accountability, and protecting the rights and safety of every resident. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1031.