



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1123**  
**Criminal Law - Minor's Access to Firearms - Penalty**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Stinnett

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1123 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.

This bill, if enacted, would charge a person who stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knew or REASONABLY should have known that an unsupervised minor IS LIKELY TO gain access to the firearm as a misdemeanor. The fine is up to \$1,000 and up to 5 years in prison, or both.

Given the number of deaths (and especially children's deaths) that occur because adults who own guns are not careful about how they store them, this is a very reasonable measure that can prevent so many tragic deaths.

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