



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0197
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING ACT**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Mireku-North

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0197 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.

Guns are big business for manufacturers and distributors. They are sold without a care to the harm that they are causing to our society. Our members believe that it is time that those businesses that deal in firearms are penalized for the harm they are causing.

This bill, if enacted, would subject firearms dealers to an excise tax imposed on their gross receipts from the sale of guns, ammunition, and other firearm accessories. The money from this excise tax would go to fund the shock-trauma center at the University of Maryland Medical System; the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund; the Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant Program; and the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention.

We believe that the ill-gotten gains from the gun dealers should be put to better use to curb violence in our state and to support those who have been harmed.

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