



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0638
PUBLIC SAFETY – UNTRACEABLE AND UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Lopez

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0638 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.

There does not seem to be a logical reason for removing the serial number of a gun or building one from component parts purchased on the internet except to do something illicit. Anyone who is found with a gun that the owner has gone to great lengths to conceal from any attempt to register it, should be convicted. If they are found to have done this more than once, the fines and jail time should escalate.

Our Coalition supports the thrust of this bill, in making it illegal to own a gun that does not have a serial number and registration. While we are anxious to ensure that ownership of these guns is prohibited, we do feel that the penalties are slim.

The state has been incarcerating people for decades for having on their person a tiny amount of cannabis, which would not cause any harm. However, this bill is not suggesting any jail time for a first offense, and allows the court to suspend sentence for a second offense. Ownership of an unregistered gun without a serial number is a huge level up from having a tiny amount of cannabis. We think the penalties should be stronger, but we will still support the bill as written in order to make ownership of these guns illegal. We would respectfully suggest that more effort is taken to ensure that the sentence someone receives fits the severity of this crime. We recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.