



TESTIMONY FOR SB0086

Rifles and Shotguns – Possession – Age Requirement (Raise the Age Act of 2023)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Waldstreicher

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0086 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.

Our coalition members were initially enthusiastic about the prospect of raising the minimum age to possess a firearm. Given the number of shootings of young adults and children by young adults and children, it is a necessary step to getting the murder of innocents under control. However, although this bill does prohibit a person under 21 years of age from possessing a rifle or a shotgun, and does prohibit the sale of a firearm to persons under the age of 21, there are so many situations in which that individual could legally be in possession of a firearm.

We would like to see all of the exceptions struck from the bill. It is not enough to have the individual's parents permit them, or even supervise them, or allow it for purposes of self-defense. You could drive a truck through the exceptions.

We more than appreciate the intention of this legislation, but would like to see it strengthened considerably.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in Committee.