



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0580
ELECTIONS LAW – POLLING SITES – FIREARMS PROHIBITIONS**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Henson

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0580 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 are many pieces of legislation that have been written to protect the citizens of this state. One of the hallmarks of our state has been the fact that our elections are generally free from intimidation and harassment. We have had to write laws to ensure that the campaigners keep their distance from voters, but we have not had to write legislation to keep people with guns away from voters.

Sadly, we are in that place. People have lost their civility and there are too many who would seek to bully people at the polls. We can't have that in Maryland. Voting must be free from intimidation of any sort.

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