



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0165
MARYLAND ESTATE TAX – UNIFIED CREDIT**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Palakovich-Carr
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 HB0165 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have well over 30,000 members across the state.

This bill is one step in a series of steps that the State must take to reverse tax handouts to the wealthy. We all recognize that the wealthy have lobbied heavily for laws that ensure that they shield as much of their income as possible from taxation, instead of paying their fair share. This causes more tax to be paid by people who have less means to pay. The exemption for estate taxes should be lowered so that more estate taxes are taxable. For those who are wealthy, paying taxes on an additional \$4million is not a big thing. They will lobby hard to shield their income, but in this day, with so many people hurting, we believe that you should be leaning heavily towards helping those at the lowest rungs of the financial scale instead of those at the highest.

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