



TESTIMONY FOR HB0384
Landlord and Tenant – Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance
Determination

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0384 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 with well over 30,000 members.

Renters have been placed in a particularly untenable position since the start of the pandemic. Many renters have either lost jobs, or seen their wages reduced. Most have no desire to default on their rent, but are simply experiencing the volatility of shutdowns and sickness. We all understand that landlords have the right to collect on their rents, but we should not needlessly throw people out on the street when they are making an effort to pay.

This bill will support the many renters in the state by precluding landlords from evicting them while they are waiting for rental assistance funds. The goal should always be to keep people in their homes.

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