



TESTIMONY FOR HB0174
Criminal Procedure - Victims of Sexually Assaultive Behavior

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Simpson

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0174 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.

One of the most disturbing and debilitating things about victimhood is the feeling that you are no longer in control of your own life. Decisions are taken from you and you are left to suffer their consequences. If a State's Attorney determines not to charge your abuser, after you have had the courage to come forward, you should at least be able to understand why. Someone should have the courage to face you to help you understand.

This is common decency to the victim. It should not have to be legislated, but we live in a world where the victim, and their rights are often overlooked. It is such a simple thing to at least have an Assistant State's Attorney show the victim the respect of being heard.

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