



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0941
CRIMINAL LAW - THREATS AND STALKING - RECKLESSNESS**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0941 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.

This bill, if enacted, would make a minor but very potent change to the crime of stalking. Instead of the stalker knowingly and willfully threatens or harms another person, they would be committing a crime if they were reckless. It changes the burden of proof and leans favorably towards the victim as opposed to the perpetrator.

Our members believe that all of our criminal laws should lean more favorably towards the victim, and that sometimes the burden of proof is too stringent to ensure justice. We feel that this change is warranted.

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