



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1157
GROW YOUR OWN EDUCATORS GRANT PROGRAM - ESTABLISHED**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilkins

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 HB1157 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.

Our members are highly supportive of efforts made to reduce the teacher shortage in Maryland, particularly in high-needs schools. This bill, if enacted, would provide grants to individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in teaching and pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher in a high-needs school, grade level, or content area where there is a shortage of teachers.

A local collaborative of school systems, unions, or higher education institution will make the determination of what content areas and needs exist and provide a plan for outreach to students that prioritizes both racial and linguistic diversity and estimates the cost, the length of the service obligation, and at least one source of long-term funding. They will also provide mentors and materials for the individuals selected.

This is a creative way to create a pipeline of teachers in the state that incentivizes local students. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.