



TESTIMONY FOR SB0125
Residential Real Property
Local Limits on Summoning Law Enforcement or Emergency Services

Bill Sponsor: Senator Gile

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0125 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 understand and appreciate that first responder units are stretched pretty thin. They don't have the bandwidth to service repeat calls from the same property. In response, local governments have tried to protect their first responders by enacting laws to prevent repeated calls to the same property. However, Maryland SB0125 aims to ensure that residents can call for help without fear of penalties or exceeding threshold limits.

It is absolutely unacceptable for local governments to allow disasters to occur or lives to be lost because local ordinances discourage people from seeking help. This outcome is entirely counterproductive, as it instills fear in individuals who might hesitate to call for assistance in emergencies due to potential penalties.

Victims of domestic violence, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals are particularly disadvantaged by these punitive measures. SB0125 is essential to protect these vulnerable groups and ensure they can access the emergency services they desperately need without fear of repercussions.

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