



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0153
ELECTION LAW – VOTER REGISTRATION – AGE AND NOTIFICATION TO MINORS**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fair

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 HB0153 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.

We agree with the League of Women Voters-MD that giving young residents an opportunity to register to vote when applying for a driver's permit is beneficial. HB0153 will allow voters as young as 15 years and 9 months to register to vote. Additionally, young voters can vote in primaries for candidates that will be on a general election ballot when they are 18 years old. The bill also provides an additional and earlier chance for Boards of Elections to engage young persons in the voting process. In fact, this bill requires Boards of Elections to provide more information and reminders in advance of a voter's first election, helping to build civic engagement. This law has the potential of making more lifelong, committed and high-information voter.

Our members appreciate efforts that result in more Marylanders becoming lifelong, committed and high-information voters.

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