



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0546
SCHOOL BUILDINGS – DRINKING WATER OUTLETS – ELEVATED LEVEL OF LEAD (SAFE SCHOOL
DRINKING WATER ACT)**

Bill Sponsor: Senator McCray

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0546 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

The question that our members have regarding this bill is: why one of the states with the highest median income in the richest nation in the world allows its children to go to schools with drinking water that is contaminated by lead? Why have we not fixed this problem over the decades that we knew it existed?

We did manage to pass legislation that required testing and remediation for lead that is 20 parts per billion. This means that any school that has only 19 parts per billion doesn't have to do anything. We know that 5 parts per billion is where we should be and this bill will require remediation for levels between 5 and 20 parts per billion.

We need to do this for our children. The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.