



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0292  
PUBLIC ETHICS – GIFTS AND LOBBYIST REGISTRATION (PUBLIC INTEGRITY ACT OF  
2021)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Stewart

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0292 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 with well over 30,000 members.

As a constituent organization comprised of unpaid activists, we know that we don't generally have the access that professional lobbyists do. When those professional lobbyists are employees of large corporations with deep pockets, the difference in access is even more pronounced.

Our organization and our member groups generally have no money, so even the \$50 maximums for food and beverages are something that would not really impact us. However, anything that levels the field between special interests and your constituent's voices sends an important message about who you are listening to when you determine what legislation to pass.

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