



TESTIMONY HB1118 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES – DISCRIMINATION

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Acevero

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1118 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.

Health care access has become a specific area of discrimination towards anyone who is transgender, gender non-conforming, lesbian or gay. They have been denied care, or their sexual orientation is ignored and they are placed with people of the wrong gender, or demeaned or forced to endure discomfort, with very little recourse.

All Marylanders should be treated equally and should not be openly discriminated against, especially for medical facilities and care facilities. This goes beyond bullying and crosses the line into intentional harm.

Our members believe that this bill fairly and justly requires medical facilities and care facilities to publicly denounce this kind of discrimination, and provides recourse for those who have been the subject of discrimination.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.