



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0123
PRESERVE TELEHEALTH ACCESS ACT OF 2021**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Peña-Melnyk
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 HB0123 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 believe that we should allow for the provision of Medicare and Medicaid services through audio or technology-assisted communication as opposed to requiring an inpatient visit. There are many people whose conditions make it very hard for them to have in-patient visits, and others whose lack of transportation prevents them from seeing their physician. Many health care providers have successfully converted to providing telehealth services during the pandemic. This has made their services much more available to their patients. Telehealth services should be allowed to continue once the pandemic is over.

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