



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0130  
LANDLORD AND TENANT – FAILURE TO PAY RENT – FEE LIMIT DURING  
EMERGENCIES**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Ellis

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0130 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 believe that passage of this bill will provide an important protection for tenants across the state as so many people struggle financially due to the pandemic. It requires, for the entire duration of a declared state of emergency and for a period of 14 months after the end of the state of emergency, if an impacted tenant fails to make a rent payment but provides written notice to the landlord of his/her status as an impacted tenant, a landlord may not demand a fee or charge for late payment of rent. It defines an impacted tenant as a tenant who has either lost their job, or had their wages decrease by 50% or more.

So many people need this kind of protection during this pandemic.

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