



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0098
COUNTY BOARDS AND PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN
PROGRAMS AND SCHOOLS – DISCRIMINATION - PROHIBITION**

Bill Sponsor: Senator McCray

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0098 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 do not support discrimination in any shape or form. They are specifically concerned when that discrimination involves public funds that are being given to a private school.

This bill gets at the heart of that problem. There are exclusions for schools that have always enrolled a single gender or schools that are affiliated with a specific religion (although accommodation should be made for the student).

Public funds should be used to ensure that all of our children have a good education. Diverting funds from public schools, which accept all students, to private schools, which can discriminate is not only a poor use of funds, but the outcome for the students and all of us is very poor.

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