



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0311
CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES – HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS –
DEFINITION AND IMMUNITY (MARYLAND HEALTH CARE HEROES PROTECTION
ACT)**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0311 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 Coalition members are in awe of the dedication and efforts of all of the health care workers, doctors, nurses and others who worked tirelessly to save lives during the pandemic. The conditions they worked under were more akin to battlefield conditions than what they trained for. They had minimal or no necessary supplies of PPE and other essential items. And yet, what they achieved is pretty phenomenal. We owe them our thanks and, in many cases, our lives.

After such extraordinary service, it is important that they not become fodder for legal challenges of liability because they could not save everyone. This bill will put in place protections for them from undue lawsuits by recognizing that the conditions they worked under were exceptionally stressful and difficult. It will also extend those protections 180 days after the emergency to recognize that emergency conditions will still exist after the emergency is declared to have run its course.

We support our heroes and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.