



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0050
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – POLICE OFFICERS – DUTY TO INTERVENE**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Carter

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0050 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 the duty to intervene when a police officer is using excessive force is a paramount duty for any compassionate person. Many citizens have intervened in such situations without having a thought for their own safety or the consequences to them.

What no one really understands is how another officer will fail to do the compassionate thing and allow a fellow officer to hurt a vulnerable individual. This behavior should not have to be legislated, but we have witnessed the inexplicable failure to stand up and speak up over and over again.

So, here we are. At the very least, there will be penalties – both monetary and potential time in jail. The officer will also be subject to civil litigation from the injured party. Perhaps this will make officers find their courage.

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