



TESTIMONY FOR HB0152
LAW ENFORCEMENT – DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE – BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Crosby

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0152 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 is heavily in favor of having police use body-worn cameras. They are as necessary as any other item that an officer has on their person and we applaud this requirement for state police to wear them.

We also feel that it is important to note, that a body-worn camera, despite the assertions of police officers, are a very helpful tool. In a situation where someone has committed a crime and manages to get away, they will be on-camera. Even if the camera does not have a recording of their face, their description and clothing will be recorded. Imagine that every officer who was there at the Capitol insurrection on January 6th had body-worn camera footage that could be used in the investigation.

This is an important tool for police officers and for the public. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.