



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0415  
PUBLIC FINANCING ACT – MATCHING FUND REVISIONS (MARYLAND FAIR  
ELECTIONS ACT)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Pinsky

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0415 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 believe in small dollar funding for campaigns. Everyone should participate in our democracy and ensuring that candidates are funded by the people they will serve is vitally important.

This bill funds the Fair Campaign Financing Fund, which will be used by Gubernatorial candidates who wish to run their campaigns with public funds. Gubernatorial candidates, like any other candidate for office, should be elected with small dollar donations that are matched by the state. This fund is the mechanism for making that possible.

The fund is administered by the Comptroller, who must ascertain that there is enough money in the fund for a Primary and a General election and ensure that any shortfall is funded through the budget.

We believe this is vitally important to our participatory democracy. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.