



TESTIMONY FOR HB0209

Criminal Law - Unnatural or Perverted Sexual Practice - Repeal

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Moon

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0209 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.

As a state in a country that prides itself on being secular, it is tragic how many laws are on the books in Maryland that are skewed entirely towards the religious preferences of the few. The LGBTQIA residents of this state have many laws that have been put in place to stigmatize them, and in some cases, criminalize them. These are all laws that we need to rid ourselves of.

This bill would seek to remove the phrase 'unnatural or perverted sexual practices' from the definition of sexual molestation or exploitation and replace it with 'any other sexual conduct that is a crime'. Sex between consenting adults is not a criminal act so this change will help decriminalize being LGBTQIA.

This change is long overdue. The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.