



TESTIMONY FOR SB0298

Criminal Law - Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member

Bill Sponsor: Senator Young

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0298 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 medical professionals are under assault. Beyond having to deal with a rampaging pandemic, they are under assault from people who no longer act in a civil fashion. We have gone past disagreeing with someone's viewpoint to threatening them. Nurses, doctors and public health officials have been spit on, pushed, cursed at, and even received death threats for simply trying to do their job. They are very much in need of protection.

This bill will make it a misdemeanor to threaten a public health professional, with a penalty of up to \$500 and up to 90 days in jail. This could not be more welcome.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.