



TESTIMONY FOR HB0533
Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration -
Immigrants

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Peña-Melnyk

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0533 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.

Maryland is home to a large immigrant population. Immigrants contribute to our society in many ways – they often take jobs that no one wants at substandard wages; they start new businesses; and they pay taxes. And yet, they are the target of discrimination in many ways, both covert and overt.

This bill would seek to prevent one method of discrimination against immigrants, which is denying them professional licenses or certificates or registrations in the fields and businesses they are otherwise qualified for. This form of discrimination must end.

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