



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0895**  
**Declaration of Rights - Campaign Financing Right to Know**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Smith

**Committee:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0895 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Elections have consequences. Our very democratic Republic is rooted in the idea of free and fair elections. Yet, we have reached a place where candidates receive financing from wealthy individuals and businesses that we, as voters, are unaware of. This can easily result in votes for those candidates by individuals who have no idea what real policy agenda that those candidates have.

This bill will seek to give Marylanders the right to know. Simply that. Campaign financing should be transparent and publicly financed elections should be the norm. We think this makes our elections more democratic and gives constituents a bigger voice in choosing the people who will represent their interests.

Let the people vote on this.

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