



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0655**  
**Unemployment Insurance – Federal Extended Benefits for Long-Term**  
**Unemployment**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Klausmeier

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0655 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.

The pandemic has upended the lives of so many Marylanders. Many have been unemployed for a long time, and although unemployment benefits are available, they expire in 26 weeks. Given the duration of the pandemic, the federal government extended unemployment benefits another 13 to 20 weeks.

Maryland is not positioned to offer extended benefits to the unemployed as we lack a key trigger in state law. We do not count the total unemployment trigger for the extended benefits. This bill will position Maryland to trigger all of the federal monies to pay for extended benefits in the future, which will help our unemployed residents.

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