



TESTIMONY FOR HB0306
Election Law - Circuit Court Judges - Nonpartisan General Elections

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Qi

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0306 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.

Our members have been concerned for some time about the fact that such an important position as Circuit Court Judge is appointed, instead of being elected by the public. They make important civil and criminal decisions that can affect everyone in the state, and we know almost nothing about them, or even if they are qualified to do their job.

This bill would require all Circuit Court Judges to run for office in the General Election. We need to know more about the people who are making decisions for us, and we believe very firmly that we should elect them based on their merits.

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