



MARYLAND HALL
art for all

Testimony in favor of HB0520

February 20, 2023

Submitted by: Jackie Coleman, Executive Director of
Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

Greetings Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, Alcohol Sub-Committee Chair Valderaama, and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Jackie Coleman and I am the Executive Director of Maryland Hall. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today about my support of HB0520 which would allow art establishments to procure an annual liquor license. Dedicated to Art for All, Maryland Hall is the region's cultural core, convening and engaging all people in arts experiences that strengthen community. We welcome, connect, and enrich all with inspiring arts experiences.

For the past decade Maryland Hall has provided the opportunity for audiences to enjoy an alcoholic beverage by obtaining daily liquor licenses. Over the years as we have grown in our offerings, the number of licenses we apply for each year has increased. Annually we now obtain about 75 licenses costing the organization almost \$5500. Additionally, the staff time required to complete the application process equates to 25 workdays. Also, we receive over \$50,000 each year from our bar sales providing us with another much needed diversified revenue stream.

At a time when non-profit arts organizations, one of the hardest hit industries during Covid, are working hard to rebuild – cost cutting is imperative for survival. I urge you to support HB0520 so Maryland Hall and other like organizations can focus on achieving their missions. Thank you for your time.

WWW.MARYLANDHALL.ORG

801 Chase St. Annapolis, MD 21401