



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0324**  
**Child Abuse and Neglect - Domestic Violence**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Lopez

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0324 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.

A woman who is the victim of domestic violence and unable to protect her children because of the harm to herself or further harm to the children should not be charged with criminal child abuse and neglect. The abuser is the perpetrator, and if anyone is charged, it should be that person.

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