



TESTIMONY FOR SB0807

Landlord and Tenant - Failure to Repair Serious and Dangerous Defects - Tenant Remedies (Tenant Safety Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Washington

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0807 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 preamble of this bill gets at the heart of the issue that needs to be addressed - It is the public policy of the state that meaningful sanctions be imposed upon those who allow dangerous conditions and defects to exist in leased premises, and that an effective mechanism be established for repairing these conditions and halting their creation.

No one should be forced to live in a dangerous environment while paying for the privilege to do so. This bill provides a remedy for this issue by allowing a group of tenants, or tenant organization, or a single tenant to request injunctive relief or an action for money damages and attorney fees if the landlord refuses to make repairs or correct the problem in a reasonable period of time after being notified.

This legislation does not imply that any and all issues that a tenant has should be covered, only conditions and defects which constitute, or if not promptly corrected will constitute, a fire hazard or a serious and substantial threat to the life, health or safety of occupants. This is more than fair to the landlord and supports the many tenants in Maryland who deserve to live in a building that is not dangerous to their health or their person.

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