



TESTIMONY FOR SB0686
Civil Actions - Child Sexual Abuse - Definition, Damages, and Statute of
Limitations (The Child Victims Act of 2023)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0686 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This is an important bill. It expands the definition of child sexual abuse as an adult allowing or encouraging a child to engage in a variety of sexual activities from obscene pornography to rape, incest, prostitution and other acts. It also allows the victim to file suit against the perpetrator at any time post-abuse and creates a two year lookback window to allow victims that were previously barred from filing a claim to do so for a limited period of time.

For those who have suffered sexual abuse as a child, this would be an amazing victory. We should never restrict them from getting justice because there is no greater crime than to prey on a child. We applaud Senator Smith for bringing this bill forward.

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