



TESTIMONY FOR HB0004
Criminal Law – Sexual Crimes – Repeal of Spousal Defense

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Crutchfield

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0004 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.

In situations of marriage, where there is a legal commitment between two parties to remain together, one person should never force themselves upon the other. This is not the spirit of the commitment that they made to each other. We understand that is difficult to prove, even if it is unconscionable. However, we believe that there is no question that in cases where the parties are living separately, forceable sexual aggression or rape should be prosecuted as a criminal offense.

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