



TESTIMONY FOR SB0233
Employment Standards, Prevailing Wage, and Living Wage - Employer
Adverse Actions - Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Chair, Finance Committee

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0233 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.

MLC supports legislation that expands employee whistleblowing protections. This legislation protects employees from recrimination for simply asking about their rights or employer responsibilities. Moreover, this legislation strengthens the Commissioner of Labor and Industry's ability to investigate violations, participate in mediation, issue orders, and enforce penalties.

Whistleblower protections can encourage people to voice their concerns without fear of retaliation. Employees are in a unique position to identify fraud, corruption, safety issues, injuries, discrimination, and waste. Thus, employees are a first line of defense against anti-competitive and anti-social activities. We need to protect people willing to perform this role for a well-functioning society.

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