



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0602
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION – SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

Bill Sponsor: Speaker

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0602 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.

Our members appreciate the efforts of the legislature to stamp out discrimination in our state. This bill, if enacted, would prohibit employers from discriminating against anyone on the basis of their sexual orientation. Practically, this means ensuring that potential employees are not deprived of employment on the basis of their sexual orientation, and once hired, they would not be discriminated against in terms of pay, promotions, or working conditions.

Our members believe that adding sexual orientation to the prohibited employment practices is a positive step forward for the residents of this state. In the future, we would like to see more language that requires an employer to self-report rather than have a prospective or current employee sue to enforce their rights, but we are satisfied with this legislative step.

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