



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0671
FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS - RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGORS AND GRANTORS -
ACCESS TO COUNSEL**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Charles

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0671 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.

Homeownership for many Marylanders not only provides financial stability but it also conveys to children, allowing a family to hold a large asset over time. For those who own a home but struggle to make ends meet, foreclosure represents a staggering loss. Not just homelessness, but financial insecurity for the rest of their lives.

This bill, if enacted, would provide access to counsel in foreclosure proceedings for individuals who own their home but make less than 50% of the median income in the state. It would create a fund that would pay for legal representation. Funding would come from a fee on each residential property sale based on the selling price of the property, which means this program is self-funded.

This is an important step towards ensuring that the Marylanders who are struggling the most have a better chance to remain in their homes.

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