



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0555

### Criminal Law – Visual Surveillance With Prurient Intent – Private Place And Minor Victim

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Waldstreicher

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0555 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.

Stalking and taking pictures or video of people in their own homes or places that are private (especially taking pictures or video of children) with prurient intent is an invasion of privacy and personhood that should be punished accordingly.

This bill, if enacted, would make this crime a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and up to a \$2,500 fine. If the victim was a minor, and the perpetrator was at least four years older than the minor, the fine would stay the same, but the jail time would be five years or less.

Our members feel that an invasion of privacy of this type should not be tolerated in our society.

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