



TESTIMONY FOR HB0118 Geriatric and Medical Parole

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Bartlett

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0118 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.

Geriatric and medical parole policies reduce prison populations by releasing inmates whose age or health limits their risk to the community. These policies can also help save money while maintaining public safety.

HB0118 expands the application of geriatric and medical parole to include age as a factor and what constitutes "chronically debilitated or incapacitated" for a medical parole. The bill would also remove the Governor from the medical parole process, which is needed for a timely response.

Reduced sentences through geriatric and medical parole save Maryland taxpayers more than \$38,000 per inmate annually--the cost of an inmate of *average* health. This is money could be better spent on schools.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition continues to advocate for this and similar bills wisely reduce the prison population without risk to the public.

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