MARYLAND
LEGISLATIVE
COALITION

TESTIMONY FOR SB0182

Criminal Procedure - Facial Recognition Technology - Requirements, Procedures, and Prohibitions

Bill Sponsor: Senator Sydnor
Committee: Judiciary
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0182 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.

In today's world, we seem to be edging towards a more Orwellian society where too much of a person's privacy is handed over to electronic monitoring devices. It is in many ways chilling to know that someone with the right access can monitor your whereabouts as you go through your day. With all the new technology, there must be limits, where the software can be used effectively for its intended purpose, but without stomping all over the rights of individuals who are ancillary to that purpose.

In that vein, our members welcome the restraints placed on the use of facial recognition technology in this bill. It limits the use of the results generated by facial recognition technology as evidence to cases where it is used in connection with a warrant or preliminary hearing in a criminal matter. Facial recognition may not be used as the sole basis to establish probable cause. Further, the bill significantly limits when the technology can be used during investigations and in analysis of videos or recordings of members of the public who are not the target of criminal investigations.

We believe these are common-sense measures that will not harm the usefulness of the technology, while protecting the rights and privacy of the public.

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