



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0494
CAMPAIGN FINANCE – POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS – PROHIBITIONS AND
DISCLOSURES**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Palakovich-Carr

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0494 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.

Raising money from individuals for a political campaign would seem to be a fairly straight-forward endeavor. However, the rise of Political Action Committees (PACs) has made the process complicated enough that there have been more and more attempts to use that structure as a way to commit financial fraud. Some PACs have raised significant amounts of money in a candidate's name, but then have kept the money for themselves.

This bill, if enacted, would make it harder for PACs to conceal the money they have raised and provides additional enforcement mechanisms. It includes notices to potential donors that the PAC is not raising money for a particular candidate or party and also precludes a member of a PAC from making fraudulent claims about who they are raising money for.

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