

Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0961
Commissioned Public Art - Artist Rights**

I am Karen Carroll, an arts educator who has made my home in Maryland since 1987. I am writing in support of Bill **HB0961 Artist's Rights Protection** which *Prohibits an entity from including in a contract for certain State public art a provision requiring artists to waive copyright protections or certain rights; and prohibiting enforcement of a certain waiver in an existing contract.*

As a member of the faculty at the Maryland Institute College of Art and an arts educator, I have personally known artists who have been commissioned to create a public art piece. Investment in a public art project typically involves a process through which the artist – and the piece – have been carefully selected. I value how much public art can add to our culture and the identity of the state and specific communities where these works have become an important part of the landscape or cityscape.

However, to think that artists have been required to forgo their copyright protections and certain rights does make it possible for restoration, or even changes, to be made to their work without their permission. Very simply, this requirement is just wrong, and this bill is needed to preserve artists rights on works contracted for by the state. Thus, I am asking, and would greatly appreciate, **your support for HB0961 Artist's Rights Protection**

Thank you very much to entertaining my letter of support.
Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Carroll, Ed.D.
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