



TESTIMONY FOR SB0435

Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary Schools – Title VI Coordinators

Bill Sponsor: Senator Waldstreicher

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0435 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.

Education represents the barrier between the prospect of a good job and a comfortable future vs a life struggle to achieve financial stability. It is the one thing that we should ensure that everyone has equal access. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act was created to ensure and enforce equal access and the right to a good education.

At this time, we have a federal government that has made it abundantly clear that they do not support equal rights. It now is up to the state to do the right thing and support everyone's right to a good education, not only in elementary school, but also in all institutions of higher learning.

This bill, if enacted, would require each school to designate a person who would act as the Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI, to document and investigate complaints, and to promote equal access and participation in the programs and activities of the school system. This person would help ensure that all of our children truly have equal access and the right to a good education.

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