



TESTIMONY FOR HB0896

Human Relations - Discrimination in Housing – Income-Based Housing Subsidies

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0896 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

This bill, if enacted, ensures fair housing opportunities for everyone, regardless of how they earn their income. It would prohibit landlords and property owners from discriminating against potential tenants solely because they rely on income-based housing subsidies, such as Section 8 vouchers. Individuals and families using housing subsidies would have the same access to rental properties as anyone else and in Inclusive communities that break down socio-economic barriers while combating housing instability.

At its core, this legislation recognizes that housing is more than just a roof over one's head—it's a fundamental platform for opportunity. By removing unfair obstacles in the rental market, Maryland is taking a bold step toward social equity and justice while addressing its housing crisis.

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