



TESTIMONY FOR HB0822

Declaration of Rights – Religious Freedom, Religious Tests, and Oaths and Affirmations

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Hill

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0822 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.

What a welcome bill! In a country with such religious diversity, including almost 30% of people who are not at all religious, it makes no sense that our state Constitution should contain any religious tests or oaths. This bill would eliminate them from the Declaration of Rights.

Our members strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.