



TESTIMONY FOR HB0311
Correctional Services – Medical Parole – Life Imprisonment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Bartlett

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0311 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.

When the Maryland Parole Commission approves medical parole for a person who is serving a term of imprisonment, it makes sense to go forward with that decision. That is their job and they are the people with the experience. There is no reason to then have a political figure, the Governor, approve the decision. The Governor has no experience in doing this, and his/her motivations are likely more political.

This bill would eliminate the Governor's role in making decisions regarding parole. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.