



## **TESTIMONY FOR HB0456**

### **Civil Actions - Child Nonsexual Abuse and Neglect - Damages and Statute of Limitations**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Spiegel

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0456 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.

This is an important bill. Allows victims, who did not have protection and suffered as children from abuse and neglect to finally strike back. The victim can file suit against the perpetrator at any time post-abuse and retroactively and proactively extends the statute of limitations to allow victims that were previously barred from filing a claim to do so. The bill also sets a cap on noneconomic damages of \$1.5M.

For those who have suffered abuse and neglect as a child, this is an amazing victory. A child abuser should never be safe from prosecution and we should never restrict the victim from getting justice because there is no greater crime than to prey on a child.

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