



TESTIMONY FOR SB0466

Vulnerable and Senior Adults – Theft of Property by Caregiver, Family Member, or Household Member - Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: President

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0466 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.

As our state population ages, more and more seniors find themselves in a position to rely on others for their care and their well-being. In many of those cases, those who become caregivers are responsible and caring. In some cases, though, the caregiver, whether they are a family member or an outside caregiver, takes advantage of the adult they are supposed to care for.

This bill, if enacted, would set penalties on the theft of property of a vulnerable or senior adult who is older than 68 by their caregiver. If the value of the property is small (less than \$1,500), the theft would be considered a misdemeanor subject to a fine of \$500 and a term of prison not exceeding one year. The bill scales the penalties up to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and up to 20 years in prison for a theft valued at greater than \$100,000. In all cases, the caregiver would have to return the property.

Theft from a vulnerable, or senior adult is a horrible crime. The Maryland Legislative Coalition wholeheartedly supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.