



## **TESTIMONY FOR HB0327 INCOME TAX – CREDIT FOR LONG-TERM CARE PREMIUMS (LONG- TERM CARE RELIEF ACT OF 2026)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Stewart

**Committee:** Ways and Means

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0327 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.

Why would any company increase the premium for long-term care for a person who is over 85? Either the company does not understand the market forces that drive long-term care insurance, and shouldn't be in that market, or there is an unconscionable amount of greed involved.

Our members believe that you should not have to legislate this level of common decency, but the facts are that long-term care providers are forcing some seniors into bankruptcy over their premium increases while giving out bonuses to their management or dividends to their investors. We also believe that seniors should get some assistance in paying for these premium increases and a tax credit is not only warranted, but long overdue.

This bill will affect only persons at least 85 years old with an adjusted gross income of less than \$100k for an individual and \$200k for a joint filer. They must have purchased the long-term care insurance before January 1, 2005.

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