



TESTIMONY FOR HB0634

Income Tax – Income Tax Reconciliation Program – Established (Maryland Fair Taxation for Justice-Involve Individuals Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wims

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0634 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.

Sometimes, you don't know that something will be a problem until it already exists. For example, there are people who are incarcerated who owe taxes. Needless to say, their ability to pay those taxes is limited by the fact that they don't earn anything.

This bill, if enacted, would allow for justice-involved individuals (those who are currently incarcerated, or who have been released within the past two years from a sentence of between 6 months and 10 years) to establish an installment payment plan to pay off their taxes without being subject to penalties or interest payments. The installment plan would allow the justice-involved individual to pay off the taxes within a ten-year period.

Our members believe this is a reasonable solution for both the justice-involved individuals and the state. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.