



TESTIMONY

HB1037 – Broadband and Voice Over Internet Protocol Service – Oversight (Broadband Accountability and Affordability Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Foley

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, CoChair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **HB1037** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

For me, broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. And families rely on it for education, healthcare, employment, and civic participation. Yet too many Marylanders, particularly in rural and underserved communities, continue to experience unreliable service, opaque pricing, or inadequate consumer protections. HB1037 brings broadband oversight in line with other essential utilities by ensuring that providers are held accountable for the quality and reliability of the services they deliver.

Specifically, HB1037 authorizes the Public Service Commission (PSC) to exercise oversight of broadband and voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) service, assess the adequacy of service plans offered by Internet service providers, and conduct evaluations or audits when needed. The PSC may also require remedial action if providers fail to meet standards or obligations.

HB1037 aligns with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work centers on transparency, accountability, and equality. Ensuring that broadband providers meet clear standards—and that consumers have recourse when they do not—is consistent with those values and essential to building a more equitable digital future. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1037.