



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0628

### Human Services - Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth Program- Establishment

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Acevero

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0628 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.

In terms of support for the youth of this state, this bill takes aim at one of the most traumatic times in the lives of youth who have been abandoned. "Graduating" out of out-of-home placement for youth who have been in the foster care system is intimidating. They are just 18 years old. Getting a job, finding a place to live, and learning to care for themselves is very, very difficult. This legislation would provide those transitioning out of foster care a stipend of \$1,000 for three years to give them a head start in making a life for themselves and ensure that they will not wind up on the streets.

Passing this bill would say a lot for the hearts of Marylanders towards our youth. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.