



TESTIMONY
HB1378 Corporations and Associations –
Limitations on Election and Ballot Issue Activities
(Maryland Corporate Power Reset Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Terrasa
Committee: House Government, Labor, and Elections
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1378 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.

Marylanders are exhausted by a political system where corporate money drowns out the voices of actual people. HB1378 recognizes what we all see: unlimited corporate spending has distorted our elections, shaped policy outcomes behind closed doors, and allowed wealthy interests to dominate ballot campaigns. Democracy cannot function when the loudest voice belongs to whoever can write the biggest check. HB1378 is a necessary step toward reclaiming political power for the public.

The bill prohibits foreign and domestic entities from using their financial power to influence Maryland elections or ballot issue campaigns. This includes spending money on ballot questions, funding political advertising, contributing to electioneering efforts, or engaging in activities that distort voter understanding or outcomes.

When these entities violate the bill's election related restrictions, HB1378 authorizes the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to fine, suspend, or revoke the ability to operate in Maryland, ensuring meaningful accountability. These limits prevent corporate actors from dominating political debates or drowning out community voices.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1378.