



TESTIMONY FOR
HB0699 – Law Enforcement Officers – Duty to Intervene and Render Aid

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Acevero
Committee: House Judiciary
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair
Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in support of **HB0699** 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.

HB0699 requires officers to intervene when they witness excessive force and to provide basic first aid when someone is injured during police action. If an officer intentionally ignores these duties, the bill establishes needed consequences. In plain terms, it ensures that officers prevent harm and provide care when someone is hurt.

This bill is urgently needed. The recent atrocities committed by ICE have shown how quickly abuse escalates when no one steps in. Maryland must make clear that preventing harm is a core responsibility of every officer.

I continue to exercise my First Amendment Rights in response to recent events. HB0699 not only protects me in these activities, it strengthens safety for all Marylanders in every interaction with law enforcement. Whether someone is speaking out, recording police activity, or simply going about their day, they deserve to know that officers are required to stop excessive force and render aid.

These basic safeguards build trust and reduce preventable injuries. This approach is consistent with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition, which is rooted in transparency, accountability, and ensuring Marylanders can participate in their democracy and their lives without fear.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB0699**.