



TESTIMONY FOR HB0495
Criminal Procedure – Immigration Arrest
Immunity in Connection With Court Proceeding

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg

Committee: House Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0495 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district—representing more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB0495 ensures that individuals who are attending a court proceeding in good faith—whether as parties, witnesses, or family members—are protected from immigration arrest while traveling to, participating in, or returning from that proceeding. It also prohibits anyone from making an arrest in violation of these protections.

Over the past year, I have been disheartened by reports of immigration-related arrests in or near courthouses because they create fear in immigrant communities and discourage people from appearing in court. When victims and witnesses stay away because they fear being detained, the justice system cannot function. HB0495 provides clarity and reassurance of due process at a moment when trust in public institutions is fragile.

The bill aligns directly with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work centers on equity, transparency, and civic empowerment. HB0495 strengthens all three by ensuring that every Marylander—regardless of immigration status—can safely access the courts, participate in legal proceedings, and seek protection or justice without fear.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0495.