



TESTIMONY FOR HB0332
Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0332 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.

We are watching the destruction of rights that we have enjoyed since the founding of our country. Federal agents are illegally entering homes without warrants; dragging people out of cars, schools, churches and other places with no cause; harming peaceful protesters; and arresting people for free speech.

Since these are federal agents, there is little recourse for ordinary people once these events have happened. This needs to change. We must punish the people that do these things because they are criminals and we must provide relief for their victims.

This bill, if enacted, would will allow Maryland residents the ability to fight back when their civil rights have been violated by Federal agents by bringing action against any them. This would include –

- Retaliating against a person for their protected speech (e.g., targeting a political opponent for an investigation); interfering with the free exercise of religion; or using excessive force to break up a peaceful protest.
- Conducting an unlawful search of a person's home or an unreasonable seizure at a checkpoint without a warrant or probable cause; or using excessive force during an arrest.
- Unlawfully targeting individuals for enforcement actions or tax audits on the basis of their race, national origin, or political ideology.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.