



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0834**  
**Family Law – Child Neglect Definition - Alteration**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Schindler

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0834 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.

There are too many ways to neglect a child. All of them cause lasting harm and all of them are an anathema to everything we believe in. One of the many, many ways to cause lasting harm to a child is to deny them an education. Not only does it force them into poverty because they do not have the skills to get a good job, but it isolates them and makes other kinds of neglect even worse.

This bill is simple. It adds to the definition of child neglect the failure or refusal to provide to a child the education required by law by any parent or other person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of the child.

This will allow charges to be brought against parents or caretakers who keep a child from school.

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