



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0907 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE – STUDY ON SYSTEM REFORMS

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Carey

**Committee:** Economic Matters

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0907 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.

Unemployment insurance has become a topic that is top-of-mind for many Marylanders since the pandemic started. The pandemic put on display all of the weaknesses of our unemployment system. We are now in crisis for the overwhelming number of Marylanders who have lost their livelihood due to the shutdowns that the pandemic has caused.

This bill is an emergency study which seeks to find ways to shore up the unemployment insurance system and consider how to ensure solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The study will explore some of the groups of people who should receive unemployment benefits, such as self-employed individuals, part-time workers and how dependents are affected by these benefits.

Having seen the impact of the weaknesses in Maryland's unemployment system on those who have lost their jobs in the past year, and having heard from our members who are directly affected, we feel that it is critical to get this study underway and make changes immediate changes based on its recommendations.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.