



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0006
GENERAL ASSEMBLY – SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY IN OFFICE**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0006 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.

Our members would like to ensure, as much as possible, that *their* vote for candidates for the General Assembly is what elects its members. We understand that events happen that cause a duly elected member of the General Assembly to vacate their seat between election cycles and we approve of the process of nominating and confirming a replacement. However, if a seat is vacated early in the term, the constituents of that district are essentially being represented by a person they did not elect for an extended period of time. This seems like an opportunity for change.

This bill would require the Governor to call a special election depending on when the the replacement member is seated. We believe that this will ensure that the replacement member will only serve out the term if it is too late to announce candidacy for the next Primary or General election.

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