



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0413  
JUDGES – IMPLICIT BIAS – TESTING, TRAINING, AND EVALUATION**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Wells

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

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

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0413 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 feel that anyone who has the ability to change the course of another person's life should be beyond reproach, in terms of their support for people of all races, genders, and walks of life. It makes good sense that we would need to provide training and test that judges are unbiased.

This bill, if passed, would require all judges to receive training to address implicit bias, and then to be evaluated to measure the results of the training. Although it is silent on any consequences for failure to pass the evaluation, this is a good first step in understanding where we need to go from here.

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