



TESTIMONY FOR SB0313
Civil Actions - Damages - Use of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Data

Bill Sponsor: Senator Watson

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0313 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 think this is simple. The calculation of damages for a loss of earnings resulting from personal injury or wrongful death, should not be reduced simply because of a person's race, ethnicity, or gender. The fact that we need to legislate this makes the issue of implicit bias training all the important.

We support this bill, but are concerned that there is no measure that will allow a recipient know that they have had their damages unlawfully reduced, and no recourse. We respectfully ask that there be a standard, or a standard range, against which the damages that are awarded that could be measured to evaluate whether a recipient has been harmed. We also ask that a remedy, perhaps the difference between the standard, or the midpoint of the standard range, and the damages awarded be included. We recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.