



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0979
PROPERTY TAX – TAX SALES – HOMEOWNER PROTECTION PROGRAM –
AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT AND FUNDING**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Kaiser

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0979 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.

In the 2021 Session, the Homeowner Protection Program was established in the Office of Assessments and Taxation. This was legislation that our members supported. Low-income residents can now be enrolled in the program if their home has an assessed value of less than \$300,000 and if they have a combined income of less than \$60,000. Priority is given for those who are over 60 years old or are receiving disability payments.

This bill will automatically enroll each homeowner who meets the eligibility requirements, and it will provide funding for the program.

We support the General Assembly in working hard to find solutions that will provide support to those who need the most help and we believe this is a great program.

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