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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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**Testimony in Support of HB1162 - Campaign Finance - Collections by Membership Entities - Non Campaign Political Activity**

HB1162 clarifies Maryland campaign law to grant membership entities additional flexibility in how they collect campaign related donations with their membership dues. Currently, membership organizations such as the Maryland REALTORS charge members for a political contribution along with their membership dues. Unlike the other portion of membership dues, political contributions to the PAC must be voluntary.

This legislation would allow for members to have a choice between giving to the PAC or having that contribution go to a non-campaign related purpose or function of the association. Members would still be clearly informed about their right not to contribute to campaign-related efforts.

Finally, the bill also establishes a cap on the amount of the political contribution of no more than 25% of the total dues. This cap currently does not exist in law. The legislation doesn't otherwise affect any contribution paid outside of member dues billing.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1162.